

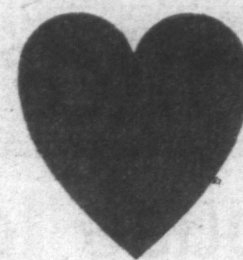


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 12, 1987

Published Since 1877



Pastor's first love: — church or wife?

By Jim Lowry

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (BP) — A pastor who takes for granted his wife's role as first lady of the church might be overlooking problems that could jeopardize his ministry and marriage.

And a church that calls a pastor on the assumption that, with his wife, they are getting two for the price of one, is setting up a situation where there is great potential for misunderstanding.

Cathy Hickem, author, and wife of Neil Hickem, a Southern Baptist pastor for nine years, conducted research of pastor-husbands and their wives that is included in her new book, "The Minister's Mate — Two for the Price of One," published by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board.

Self-imposed expectations, which

include guilt, also play a large part in the "problem, along with differing perceptions between the minister and mate and unrealistic expectations from church members, Hickem explains.

"It is a staggering confession that 54.4 percent of the wives surveyed believe their husband's first priority is the church," she continues. "And 36 percent of the pastors agreed."

When asked if the pastorate is a two-person job, 63 percent of the women said yes, compared with 44 percent of the men.

More than 78 percent of the men and 75 percent of the women agreed that active participation by the wife in church activities was necessary for a pastor to be considered, or perceived, successful. Similarly, 60 percent of the women and 73 percent of the

men acknowledged that wives attend some activities just because it is expected.

"I think there is a lot of resentment by wives because there is too little appreciation expressed by their husbands and by church members," she notes.

"There is a variety of reasons for conflict, but the first may be the joint call, where a church is hiring a team. Even though the wife doesn't preach, she must be committed, faithful, and say all the right things. No church member would consider demanding the same qualifications of the wife of their doctor or lawyer.

"Churches which hire ministers with the idea of two for the price of one are creating the false expectation that they can place equal demands on the wife and the pastor," she says.

"I believe wives must be supportive of their pastor-husbands, but in ways they choose and agree upon, not just because others expect it of them," she adds. "The roles of Christian, wife, and mother must be balanced. It may be more important to attend an activity at school for one of the children than the association meeting."

The telephone can be a constant source of interruption, according to Hickem, who suggests calls not be made to the pastor's home after 10 p.m. unless it is important. She adds it would be beneficial to the minister's family for as many calls as possible to be handled with the pastor during office hours.

A pastor shouldn't speak for his wife or commit her for responsibilities, Cathy Hickem says. When a pastor's wife sets her priorities, she has the

right to decide what she will do, not because it is a leftover job from the nominating committee, but because it is something she will enjoy or a ministry to which she feels called.

She cites a recent survey which placed clergy divorces as the third-highest among professional people.

"This shows that husbands are out of touch with their wives when they assume she will always be there," Hickem warns. "That is not a safe assumption any more."

"If the minister can care for the emotional as well as physical and spiritual needs of his family, then his impact will be greater, says Hickem. As a leader in the church, I can think of no better way to lead a congregation than through example."

Jim Lowry writes for the Sunday School Board.

Sellers Home: Based on love

"Adoption is not child abandonment"



By Joe Westbury and Everett Hullum

Following is a condensed article from the November-December 1986 issue of MissionsUSA. Names of Sellers Home clients have been changed.

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — The first time 14-year-old Paula saw her father cry was when he was told she was pregnant.

"It was 1:30 a.m. and Mom had just awakened him from a sound sleep with the news," she remembers. With tears streaming down his face, he looked into her brown eyes and said, "Paula, I love you more right now than I have ever loved you in my entire life."

It was assurance that Paula needed, calming fears of rejection that had

kept her in constant panic for five months.

It was her doctor who recommended Sellers Baptist Home and Adoption Center in New Orleans — the only Southern Baptist maternity home that serves the entire convention.

Cheerleader, varsity swimmer, student council member, Paula suddenly found herself "outcast," staring out of a bedroom window of a strange building, side-tracked by an unwanted pregnancy and a series of question marks for a future. Paula's days grew brighter, however, as Sellers gave her the anonymity and emotional breathing space she needed.

Founded in the 1920s as the Baptist Woman's Emergency Home, Sellers

for half a century has ministered to the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional needs of its clients — and, often, of its clients' families.

"I've thanked God over and over that there was a place like Sellers for us to turn to," says Paula's mother.

In 1961 the name was changed to honor Thomas Sellers, an obstetrician who donated his medical services for 33 years.

Although the facility was founded as a ministry to destitute women, many clients today are middle-class. No one is denied admission because of inability to pay, however. Since its affiliation with the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in 1933, Sellers has been supported primarily through Southern Baptist Cooperative Program budget receipts and gifts to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for Home Missions.

All of Sellers' services — maternity home, life skills classes, foster care, day care — are offered in a two-story red brick building on a quiet, tree-lined residential street.

"We do not accept anyone against her will," says Mary Dan Kuhnle, Sellers director for the past 11 years. "Sellers does not operate as a reform school. Clients are free to come and go during the day as long as they are here for regular appointments and work assignments."

Dorothy Witt and Debra Reames, both resident managers at Sellers, hold non-mandatory Bible studies that free women from the "historical" forgiveness.

"Sometimes I'm saddened by the unkind remarks tossed in our direction when we're out at a mall or restaurant," says Reames. "I tell residents to ignore them, but I understand why they are sometimes reluctant to leave the building."

Unfortunately, the judgmental remarks and condemning looks are not restricted to the outside world. "You'd be surprised at some of the reactions to our young women," Kuhnle says. "Many adults seem to have the attitude, 'That could never happen to my daughter.' We have to remind them that our clients come from all walks of life — including church families."

The subject of adoption is approached from an objective viewpoint.

Through counseling sessions, each expectant mother comes to understand adoption is not child abandonment.

"Many times it takes greater maturity and love for a woman to place a child for adoption than to decide to keep it," says one counselor. "She has realized she cannot provide what the child needs most — a stable family environment."

Such is the case with Paula. "I had to admit that I couldn't be a decent mother at 14, regardless of how much I tried," she remembers.

Paula's mother agreed but remembers the most difficult moment of the experience was returning with Paula and the baby to Sellers, the adoption she would see the child again.

With tears in her eyes, she turned to her daughter and first grandson and said, "Paula, you gave that baby the greatest gift — the gift of life."

Now give it the second-greatest gift — the chance of a normal family life."

Counselors stress the decision must be made by the mother, and she must be able to live with the decision.

If a client decides for adoption, Kuhnle makes it "very clear that this decision is irrevocable. If anyone talks you into a decision you're not comfortable with, you'll forever blame that person and never accept that decision as your own. That violates a basic precept of mental health — taking responsibility for your own decisions."

For adoptive parents, this process provides an awareness that the child is a gift of love, not rejection.

One adoptive father summed up the experience in a Christmas card he wrote to Sellers' expectant mothers: "Believe me, not being able to have a child when you desperately want one is a terrible experience. You may look fine on the outside, but you are hurting on the inside."

"My wife and I could not possibly love a biological child more than we love our adopted child. The sun rises and sets on this active package of joy. We continue to give thanks to God. . . . We also thank God for a place like Sellers and the wonderful people who work there."

Joe Westbury writes for the Home Mission Board; Everett Hullum, former editor of MissionsUSA, is a freelance journalist.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

House to vote on gambling

Two pari-mutuel gambling bills have been reported out of committee for a House of Representatives vote. They are HB 120 and HB 121. The first would allow Jackson and Tunica counties to hold referendums and create county racing commissions if they were to pass. The second would regulate track earnings and would require a percentage of income from pari-mutuel gambling to go to a state trust fund.

The bills came out of the House Ways and Means Committee. H. L. "Sonny" Meredith is the chairman. Actually, the first of the bills failed to pass the committee because of a tie

vote (10-10) but a motion to reconsider revived them and they then were declared passed by voice votes.

It is strange how bills such as this are able to rise up and come back after they should have been dead. Nevertheless, they have passed the committee. It is too late to get in touch with the committee members except to express displeasure in that the committee passed them. Every member of the House needs to be contacted now.

Pari-mutuel gambling will not help anything. My native state, Texas, had it and did away with it because it caused more grief than it was worth and cost the government more money

than it provided. To be effective as a painless tax, gambling has to bring in more money from outside the state. It doesn't do this for long, for if it were a good thing, all of the states would be doing it. It would take money from those who can't afford it and put very little in the coffers which proponents have promised would receive help.

The money would be made by the people running the gambling operations. Now is the time to get in touch with your representative and tell that person that you do not want the problems of pari-mutuel gambling in our state. The address for the House is: House of Representatives, P. O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205.

Seminaries, colleges, schools

Feb. 15 is Baptist Seminaries, Colleges, and Schools Day for Southern Baptists. It is a time to be aware of the immense contribution that our academic institutions make to our lives and what an influence and impact they have on the world from a Christian standpoint.

These are serious times for these institutions. Costs of maintaining such educational institutions have continued to increase but the money available for families to use for tuition payments has not kept pace. In spite of these factors, the colleges are still growing because families are vitally interested in providing a Christian education for their children.

In Mississippi we have three colleges with campuses and branches in several additional locations. The colleges are Mississippi College, William Carey College, and Blue Mountain

College; and they are located in Clinton, Hattiesburg, and Blue Mountain respectively. Additional campuses are in Newton for Mississippi College and on the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans for William Carey College.

These colleges have at least three areas of major influence that need to be noted. First, they teach and train hundreds of young men and women who have been called into religious service. These workers, then, disperse in all directions to extend the influence wherever they happen to be serving. Then a second area of influence is the teaching of Baptists young men and women who are going into secular occupations but who will take the colleges' influence out into their worlds as they serve in such church-related positions as Sunday School teacher, deacon, musician, and in many other areas. The influence of

the colleges is even more broadened through these students. Then the third area is to provide education from a Christian standpoint for many other students who may not be Christians as they enter college. Through these students as well as with all the others, the colleges' influence will last throughout eternity.

Maintaining high standards of excellence in academic institutions is a major problem, however, because of the continual need for money. It has to come from somewhere, and many times the families of the students are bearing all of the load that they can handle. So there needs to be another source. The best arrangement for a continuing source of income is an adequate endowment. Well-endowed institutions are able to keep their tuition costs moderately priced and thus

(Continued on page 4)

Joe Abrams' contribution

I did not know Joe Abrams as well as others at the Baptist Record did who had worked with him longer. I had seen him from time to time at Southern Baptist Conventions when we both were associate editors, he at the Baptist Record and I at the Baptist Standard in Texas. When I came to Mississippi to follow him as associate editor of the Baptist Record, we worked together for 3½ months before his retirement. In those months I learned to appreciate him very much.

In looking back over earlier issues of the Baptist Record, I found an editorial written by Joe Odle, then editor of the Baptist Record, on the eve of Abrams' retirement. Odle was the last of the three editors with whom Abrams worked. Odle passed away in 1980. Abrams died Jan. 31. I felt it would be well to reprint Odle's editorial about Abrams at this time. Joe Abrams contributed a great

deal to the Kingdom of God through his service with the Baptist Record and in his pastorates. As this piece is written, I have just returned from visiting the family at the funeral home in Greenwood. It was actually a triumphant visit. Those folks made

me feel good, and I had gone there to try to minister to them.

In addition to the accompanying editorial by Joe Odle, a piece written by Anne McWilliams when Joe Abrams retired was used extensively in preparing his obituary. — DTM

Changing of the guard

By Joe T. Odle

Reprinted from Baptist Record, Dec. 19, 1974

One of the traditional sights when one visits London is the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace. It is a colorful scene and almost always attracts crowds of tourists and other onlookers.

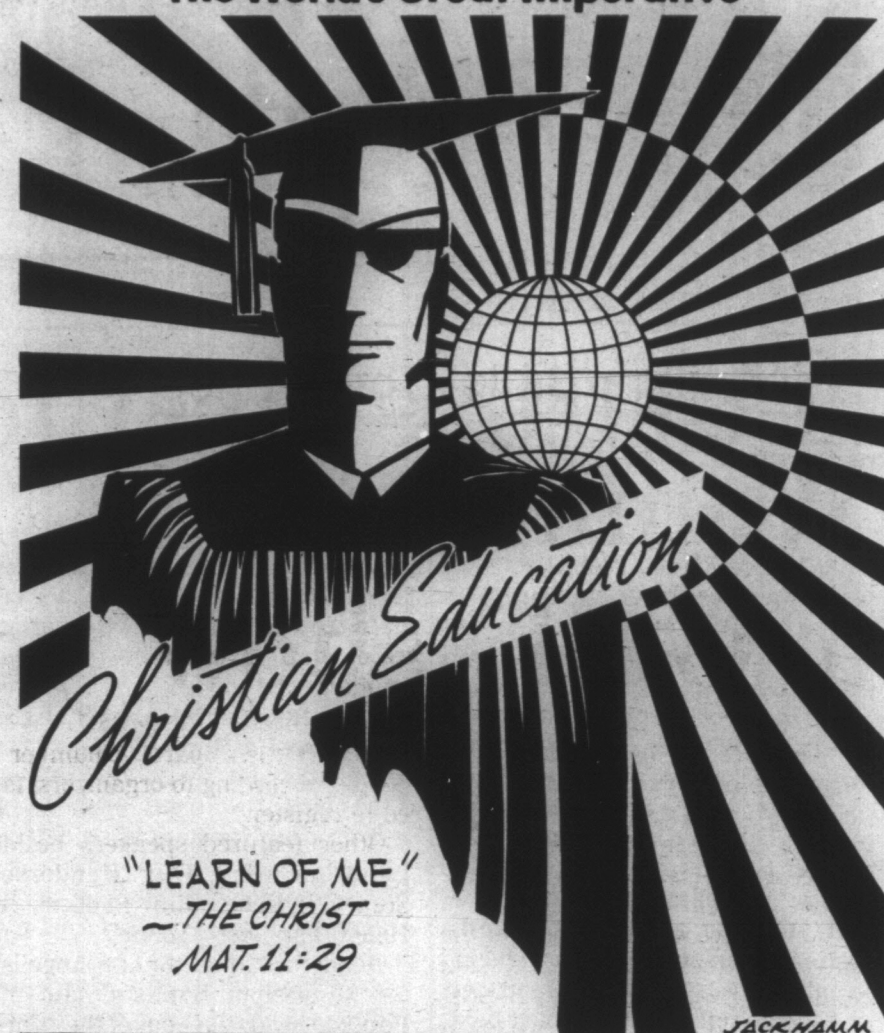
We have come to a changing of the guard at the Baptist Record. The associate editor, Joe Abrams, who has been with the publication for twenty-

three years, is retiring at the end of the year, and his successor, Don McGregor, assumes responsibilities of the associate's office as the new year begins. While there will be no colorful ceremony, it is an important occasion.

Mr. Abrams has spent more than a quarter of a century in service to

(Continued on page 4)

The World's Great Imperative



Guest Opinion . . . Will you keep giving?

By J. Everett Sneed

The 1987 federal income tax law is dramatically changing from what we have known for a number of years. One of the new features is that non-itemizers of deductions will be unable to claim charitable deductions such as contributions made to churches. Although this should have no impact on giving, in the instance of immature Christians, it may.

A married couple's total deductions must exceed \$3,760 in order for them to qualify to itemize. Those itemizing can include interest paid on a household mortgage, medical bills, 65 percent of interest paid (this will be phased out in five years) and miscellaneous deductions. In the past, non-itemizers could claim the automatic deduction set by the Internal Revenue Service plus charitable gifts. This will no longer be true.

This raises the question, "Why do you give to the Lord's work?" There are many motives for the giving of one's substance. Some individuals fear that, if they fail to give, God will cause a calamity to come upon them.

Still others give because of a sense of duty or from the motive of self respect. These individuals fear what others will say if they fail to give.

A few support the Lord's work out of a sense of compulsion or in an attempt to make-up the past wrongs committed. These individuals feel that by giving they are paying God back for the wrongs they committed in earlier life. Giving, to these in-

dividuals, is payment of a kind of "penance."

The New Testament teaches the proper motive behind giving is love. The New Testament teaches, "God so loved . . . he gave . . ." (John 3:16). God's love embraced the totality of man. The Psalms tell us, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein" (Ps. 24:1). All the physical substance we use, then, belongs to God.

Jesus had a great deal to say about giving and the motives for giving. Christ said, "It is more blessed to give than receive" (Acts 20:35). The word "blessed" carries the idea of happiness or satisfaction, so giving with the right motive will produce great satisfaction.

The Scripture further teaches that giving is a vital part of the worship experience. The wise men, as they came to worship the newborn King brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These men came to worship and to express adoration and praise to the newborn king.

Some of the harshest words of Christ deal with the matter of self-glorification or self-exaltation in giving. He cautioned, "When thou doest thy alms, do not sound the trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, they have their reward" (Matt. 6:2).

(Continued on page 4)

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 111

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 1

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Don McGregor
Associate Editor Tim Nicholas
Assistant Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Coordinator Evelyn Keyes
Editorial Assistant Florence Larrimore
Circulation Assistant Renee Walley
Financial Records Betty Anne Bailey
Computer Operator Irene Martin

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Martha Chambless, Oxford; Ferrell O. Cork Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian, chairman; Odean Puckett, Natchez; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; Ex officio, Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

Send news and communications to
The Editor, Baptist Record
P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 12, 1987

Published Since 1877

Evangelism/Bible Conference

Woman cried, "If there's a God, show yourself"

By Tim Nicholas

"The art of worship is a dangerous thing," Barry Landrum told participants during the 1987 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism/Bible Conference, Feb. 4-6 at Jackson's Calvary Baptist Church.

"A lot believe worship should be the finest, smoothest, slickest..." said Landrum, pastor of First Baptist Church, Pasadena, Tex. "If we're not careful, it will replace God as the object of worship."

Landrum said that "true worship is when the Spirit touches my spirit and I respond in praise to God... and all his wonderful attributes."

A total of 800 registered for the annual conference which is co-sponsored by the Evangelism and Sunday School departments of the Mississippi Baptist

tist Convention Board. A number of people, according to organizers, failed to register.

Other featured speakers besides Landrum were Guy Henderson, Stuart Briscoe, Jim Ponder, Jim Henry, and Jerry Young.

Henderson, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists, said that Baptists need to get out of the "Christian ghetto" because the "60-70 percent unchurched" the church is "rapidly becoming a Christian island in a sea of paganism."

He said that "Christianity is ridiculed, mocked, and treated with scorn." He added that the vision of Christianity according to the media ranges from snake handling to "give me a million or I die."

Henderson said he's heard that Phil Donahue has said that celebrities have become the chief agents of social change in society. "When were we ever told to let the condition of the field determine whether we are to obey Christ?" Henderson asked.

Stuart Briscoe, pastor of Elmbrook Church, an independent congregation in Waukesha, Wisc., spoke of the two types of disciples after the resurrection — worshippers and doubters. "Some became household names, some slid into oblivion."

He told the story of a bad guy whose club burned to the ground where evil predominated. The man, "Brotty Bob," came next door to where Briscoe had a ministry so that he

(Continued on page 6)

Every Christian is called to evangelism, Graham says

By Jim Newton

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Evangelist Billy Graham warned Southern Baptists they will never be successful in Bold Mission Thrust if they leave evangelism up to their pastors, missionaries and vocational evangelists.

Saying he was pleased that the theme for the 1987 Home Mission Study is "All Are Called to Evangelism," Graham wrote in the foreword to the adult mission study book that Baptists must put that theme into personal practice to reach the goals of Bold Mission Thrust.

Evangelism is also the focus of the March 1-8 Week of Prayer for Home Missions theme, "Who Will Win America?"

"This task... is too big for Southern Baptists to leave up to their pastors, missionaries and evangelists," Graham observed.

Graham said one reason he is a Southern Baptist is because most Baptists believe, as he does, that evangelism is the number one priority of the church.

"Yet all too often, Baptists, like other Christians around the world, are reluctant to witness," Graham said. "Many leave it up to their pastors and to evangelists who lead their revivals."

The famed preacher said he had no doubt God called him to be an evangelist, adding that all Christians are called to evangelism.

"He has given us different gifts, but one calling — to be obedient servants in sharing the gospel with a whole world in need."

Graham's comments came shortly after preliminary projections were released predicting an increase in baptisms by Southern Baptist churches during 1986 — the first such increase in four years.

Preliminary projections indicate the number of baptisms would reach 364,000 in 1986, an increase of about four percent over the 351,071 baptisms reported in 1985, according to Robert Hamblin, Home Mission Board vice president for evangelism. Final statistics will be available in late February of this year.

Hamblin attributed the increase in baptisms to response in the "Good News America: God Loves You" simultaneous revivals held in 27,000 Southern Baptist churches in the spring of 1985.

Historically, the number of baptisms reported by Southern Baptist churches has always increased during years of simultaneous revivals, according to Richard Harris, director of the Home Mission Board's mass evangelism department. This department coordinated the "Good News" revivals.

"Baptisms increased in 1950-51, 1955, 1964, 1969, 1976 and 1986," Harris

said. During each of those years, Southern Baptists sponsored simultaneous revivals.

Harris warned, however, that if the same historical patterns are followed, baptisms will probably be down in 1987.

Except for 1969, which was followed by a year of emphasis on lay renewal in 1970, the number of baptisms the year after nationwide simultaneous revivals had declined an average of about seven percent, Harris said.

"Therefore, it is especially significant that Woman's Missionary Union and Brotherhood are leading local churches in a mission study and a Week of Prayer on evangelism during 1987," Harris said.

"We must keep our focus on the priority of evangelism during 1987 to prevent the natural tendency to relax after a year of emphasis on simultaneous revivals," he added.

Hamblin challenged Southern Baptists to make evangelism their number one priority in the local church during 1987.

"As Baptists, we can't accomplish the task if we leave it up to 60,000 ordained Baptist ministers, 3,700 home missionaries and 500 vocational evangelists. It will take 14 million Southern Baptists, called to evangelism, working with other concerned Christians, to win America."

The Mississippi Mission

"Let the church decide if project is too big to handle"

By Earl Kelly

"Don't try to shield your congregation from the great burdens of your heart. The congregation may be able to lighten your burdens." Those words were spoken to me by a wise layman who had sensed my longing for the congregation to be involved in a project that was too big for our church to accomplish — or so I thought!

So I replied, "But if I were to share my dreams I would be suggesting that the people do what they are incapable of doing." I shall never forget his loving response. "Don't ever," said he, "assume you know what your congregation is capable of doing! Let the congregation decide what they are capable of doing."

Recently I recalled that earlier conversation when one of our fine Mississippi Baptist pastors and I were discussing the "Mississippi Mission" and the urgent need of educational endowment funds. We both have received our education in Baptist institutions.

I had shared with him that the 13 members of our immediate family have already earned 15 degrees from church-related colleges and seminaries and that the last two of our children are in the process of completing their degrees from Southern Baptist colleges.

The two of us did some mental

calculating about the cost of college education in today's world. Using a conservative figure my friend pointed out that my family will have invested approximately \$350,000 in Christian higher education.

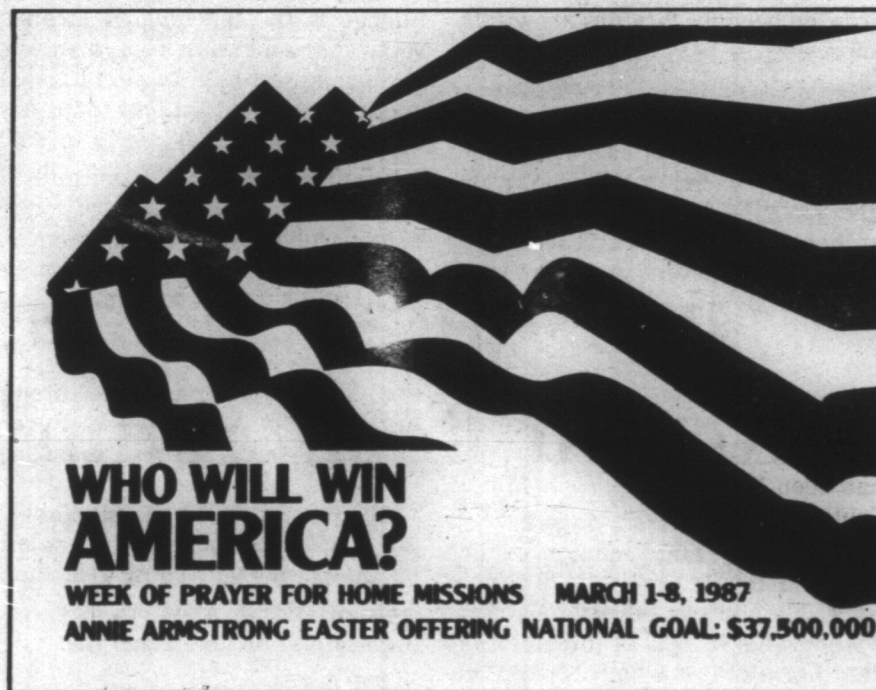
That cost, it was observed, was in addition to the amount that had been contributed through our church and the Cooperative Program for Christian higher education. My preacher friend had shared in similar sacrifices because he also believed in the extra something which his children had received from our Baptist schools. It was obvious that we were equally dedicated to Christian higher education.

However, he said, "I wish my church would get involved in the 'Mississippi Mission' but for the life of me I can't figure where they could come up with the needed resources."

"Why don't you tell your church members about your personal commitment to Christian higher education," I said, "and then let them decide if they want to rechannel some of their resources into a project too big for their church to handle?"

"You know," he said, "I think I will."

Earl Kelly is executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Lebanese Baptists want missionaries to remain

By Art Toalston

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — Lebanese Baptist leaders have expressed "deep concern and utmost disapproval" of the U.S. government order that Americans leave their country.

The Lebanese Baptist Convention's executive committee has asked the U.S. Department of State to exempt Southern Baptist missionaries from the order.

A pastors' group and at least four Lebanese Baptist congregations have made similar pleas.

The Jan. 28 order gives Americans in Lebanon 30 days of valid passport privileges before they must leave the country.

At the State Department, William Wharton, director of citizenship appeals, could not pinpoint when a decision will be made on allowing Southern Baptist missionaries to remain in Lebanon. He said his staff will handle the matter "as expeditiously as possible."

(Continued on page 5)

The changing of the guard

(Continued from page 2)

Mississippi Baptists as an employee of the Convention Board. He worked for two years as an associate in the Training Union department, before beginning his work with the Baptist Record in 1951. Except for the thirty years of service given to the publication by Dr. P. I. Lipsey, this is the longest period that any person has worked for the paper in its 98 year history.

Retirement for Mr. Abrams comes on December 31, so his duties with the paper actually end with this issue. He has helped produce more than 1150 issues of the Record and has watched the circulation grow from about 70,000 in 1951, to the more than 118,000 of the present time.

"Joe" as he is affectionately known around the Baptist Building, and across the state, has been associated with three editors, Dr. A. L. Goodrich, Dr. W. C. Fields, and the present one. On three occasions, while Dr. Goodrich was on an extended tour, after Dr. Goodrich's death, and when Dr. Fields went to Nashville, he served brief periods as interim editor, and has continued in that position to the present.

For 15 years it has been this editor's privilege to work with Joe, and no two men could have a closer or finer relationship through such a period. Together we have planned and published more than 750 issues of the Record, and we have rejoiced and thanked God together as we have watched the ministry of the publication continue to grow.

Joe and his Rolleiflex camera have become a familiar sight at Baptist meetings of all kinds all across the state, for he was taking pictures and reporting not only for the Baptist Record but also for the Mississippi Baptist News Service which provided Baptist news coverage for the secular news media across the state, since he not only was associate editor, but also was public relations director for the Convention Board. With an uncanny ability to ferret out important people and things in the news, and the training and experience to organize and condense materials for the press, he has been able to keep events of Baptist life in the state, before the people both within and without the denomination.

Mr. Abrams and I have worked closely together week after week in

planning each issue of the Baptist Record, determining materials to be used, and bringing the publication into form. Of course, we have been ably assisted in this by other members of the staff. Joe has had large responsibility in planning the front page of each issue, and in organizing the materials chosen to appear on it. General planning starts at the editor's desk, but associates must work out much of the detail.

Joe is well trained, skilled in news reporting and editing, broadly experienced and deeply dedicated to his work. He has filled his position with the Record with efficiency. His pleasant manner and warmth of spirit, have made friends for him not only in the Baptist Building but also across the state and nation.

As editor I thank him, not only for myself, but for all Mississippi Baptists, for the contribution which he has made to Baptist life and history during the past quarter century. Few men in Mississippi have been right in the middle of things as far as Baptists are concerned, more than Mr. Abrams. He has not only helped report history as it has happened, but also has shared in making it.

Missionary to Japan retires, joins staff of 1st, Yazoo City

Ralph V. Calcote, has retired as a missionary to Japan. He joined the staff of First Church, Yazoo City, on



Calcote

grew up in Brookhaven and attended Copiah-Lincoln County, Miss. He grew up in Brookhaven and attended Copiah-Lincoln Junior College. He received the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University and bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. He also holds the doctor of ministry degree from Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., and has specialized training in counseling.

In March of 1951 Calcote was appointed as a missionary to Japan. He did language study in Tokyo and was a general evangelist in Kokura (now Kitakyushu), and in Nagoya, Japan. In Tokyo, he was an evangelist, train-

ing lay Christians in evangelism, from 1970 through 1980. His last term of service was in Fukuoka, as a general evangelist, 1980-1985.

The Calcotes were on furlough during 1986 but at the end of the year they retired from service with the Foreign Mission Board, SBC.

Mrs. Calcote is the former Gena Wall of Natalbany, La. The Calcotes are parents of five grown children.

The Calcotes were the first missionaries to occupy First Church, Yazoo City's home for furloughing missionaries, 1625 Easy Street, during their 1962-63 furlough. They were also the first family to spend a second year in Yazoo City, returning for their 1968-1969 furlough. They lived in the missionary home again during 1986, but have now relocated in their own home at 1907 Barnwell Avenue.

Calcote is available for counseling. He said he prefers to work on an appointment basis unless there is some emergency or crisis need. He is working out of his home and in temporary office space on the second floor of the church's education building. When the church's new office building is completed, he will have an office there.

Seminaries, colleges, schools

(Continued from page 2)

minister to more students.

Mississippi Baptists are in the midst of an endowment campaign at this time for our educational institutions and for our children's village. The goal for the total endowment figure for the four institutions is \$40 million. Such a goal is attainable, but it will take generous giving by all of us to get there.

The benefits, however, for the institutions will be marvelous. And those benefits will be passed along to the students who study in those schools for as long as they exist.

Not to be forgotten are the six seminaries that are operated by Southern Baptists. They are busy helping religious work volunteers put the finishing touches on their career preparation. The seminaries are

Golden Gate in Mill Valley, Calif.; Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas; Midwestern in Kansas City, Mo.; New Orleans in New Orleans, La.; Southern in Louisville, Ky.; and Southeastern in Wake Forest, N.C.

May Seminaries, Colleges, and Schools Day remind us to be continually in support of our educational institutions and in prayer for their ministry.

Will you keep giving? —

(Continued from page 2)

There are many factors which should challenge Christians to be good stewards of their possessions. Paul enumerates several of the factors to the Corinthians which should encourage Christians today to be generous supporters of the local church work. The first of these is the example of others (2 Cor. 8:2). There are many who gave out of poverty. They received the blessings of the Master for their generosity.

Next, Paul emphasized their own past examples (2 Cor. 8:6-7). It would be great if each Christian would always live his life at his own highest standard. Most, if not all, Christians have had high moments when they recognized the responsibility of returning their material possessions to God for the furtherance of the gospel. The tragedy is that all too often we never turn our highest impulses into action.

Finally, we are to give because of the example of Christ (2 Cor. 8:9). The foundation of Christianity is the principle of giving. Apart from giving, there would be no eternal life.

Will the new tax law keep Christians from supporting the Lord's work? Not in the case of committed Christians who understand that they are stewards of their possessions. Those who realize that all that they have belongs to a God who loves them will continue to give.

Jesus approved of sacrificial giving as he commanded the woman who brought the alabaster box and broke it over him, as well as the widow who gave her mite. A Christian should give because of the relationship he has with God through Christ. He should further recognize that all that he has belongs to God and that he is but a steward of the possessions that God

has placed in his hands.

The word, "steward," as used in the New Testament, portrays the concept of God's total ownership of all we have. In Christ's day, every household of distinction seems to have had a steward. He was a servant or a free man who had full charge of his master's affairs and could even use them for his own personal advantage, if he chose. He was completely accountable to his master, however, and had to render a full account when requested to do so.

The Christian should gain insight to his responsibility from the household stewards of the New Testament era but the motivation should always be love and gratitude. The intent should be to glorify God and further the Master's work around the world.

Everett Sneed is editor, Arkansas Baptist Newsmagazine.

Thai women meet first time for national meet

CHIANG MAI, Thailand — Six languages were spoken when Thai Baptist women met for their first na-

tional Baptist Women's Union camp for Bible study, inspiration, business and fellowship. The women adopted a con-

stitution for their group and planned how to increase their witness in churches throughout Thailand.



**LOOKING FOR
"SOMETHING DIFFERENT"
THIS SUMMER?**

Don't go around in circles . . .

Join us for a British Isles adventure in conjunction with the Fourth World Conference of Baptist Men

Departure: June 29, 1987

— Planned by the late Mr. Owen Cooper and Rev. Jim Yates, the trip will be personally escorted by Jim and Joy Yates. Tour arrangements through BibleLand Travel, Louisville, KY

Write or call for a brochure:

P. O. Box 12, Yazoo City, MS 39194 (601) 746-2471

EQUITABLE'S ULTIMATE 100%

MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT

Companion 700 High Option Plan

Helps pay for what Medicare doesn't pay — Benefits for:

- Hospital, nurses and first three pints of blood.
- All Medicare, Part A, deductibles for hospitalization
- 100% of eligible hospital charges beyond Medicare, Part A, for an additional 365 days
- Physicians and Surgeons expense benefit, payable in or out of hospital
- Skill Nursing Home or Extended Care Facility
- Prescription Drugs & Medicines at Home (Endorsement-73)

For Full Information Phone 924-4442

Or Fill out Coupon and Mail to:

**Equitable Life and Casualty Ins. Co.
Hutton Insurance Agency**

P. O. Box 20257, Jackson, MS 39209

Name _____ Age _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____
Phone _____ Zip _____

Underwritten by Equitable Life and Casualty Ins. Co.

BR2

Letters to the editor

Thursday, February 12, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Not an accident

Editor:

Because a report has circulated rather widely that I have suffered an accident and am hospitalized, I am sending this note to our readers to clarify the situation.

Actually, there was not an accident in the usual sense of that word. The doctors and I are mystified concerning what caused a fracture of a vertebra (in my back, of course), because there had been no accident, fall, or even any conscious body jolt; but the fracture did occur, resulting in considerable pain and additional difficulty in walking.

The doctors feel that four months will be needed for healing of the fracture, necessitating the cancellation of my spring schedule and my leading a recovery schedule of minimum physical exertion, during which time I shall have much opportunity for in-depth study of God's word, prayer, and general reading — all of which should equip me for even greater service in the future.

I am almost inexpressibly grateful for the concern and prayers of a multitude of friends, to whom I want to say that the sentiment of Philippians 1:3 is my heart's response to you.

Chester E. Swor
Jackson

On target

Editor:

Just wanted to "thank you" and "praise the Lord" for your recent editorials in the Baptist Record. The editorials you gave us on:

... The Presidents of Seminaries' Statement

... The Convention Time Schedule

... The Bethesda Home and Redemption Baptist Church were on target. It is a good feeling reading the Baptist Record from this side of the desk to have an editor who appears to me to practice editorial unbiasedness; a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit; has a feeling for the rightness of a situation or event or issue, and doesn't get bogged down in personality preferences (the \$50 word for such is called personalism).

I feel you are not only informing us, but are a voice for us throughout the state.

Thanks for the ministry of the pen to us.

Ray Henry, pastor
Olivet Church
Gulfport

It's not what you'd do with a million.
If riches should e'er be your lot;
But what are you doing at present
With each of the dollars you've got?

Lebanese want missionaries . . .

(Continued from page 3)

Ghassan Khalaf, a former president of the Lebanese Baptist Convention, urged Americans in a telephone interview, "Do not let us feel that you are forsaking us."

The vast majority of Lebanon's 2.7 million people "feel that they are a part of the free world," Khalaf said. "They are people of good will. We hope that the (American) government will understand our situation and not withdraw from Lebanon but help and support Lebanon."

The American government, Khalaf reiterated, should not "make decisions that harm many hundreds of thousands of people because of a few terrorists."

The Lebanese Baptist executive committee's plea, adopted Feb. 4 in Beirut, argued the order "would result in the disruption or freezing of many . . . projects that are of great benefit both to our local churches and to our convention." The convention

consists of 11 Baptist churches in Lebanon.

Southern Baptist missionaries in Lebanon are "greatly appreciated by the community in the spiritual, humanitarian, and social fields," the committee added.

The missionaries are engaged in media, publications, and educational work. They also worked with Lebanese Baptist churches in 1986 to distribute \$150,000 in Southern Baptist relief funds to assist refugees from areas devastated by Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war.

Soon after the Jan. 28 State Department order, a group of Lebanese Baptist pastors met to urge prayer "morning, noon, and night" that the missionaries could remain in Lebanon. Also, Friday, Feb. 6, was designated a day of fasting and prayer.

In a Feb. 3 meeting, the Hadath Baptist Church, where Khalaf is pastor, adopted a statement that

noted: "For several decades, the Baptist mission in Lebanon has been a help and a blessing to the Baptist churches and our people in Lebanon. The deepest spirit of cooperation, understanding, fellowship, and love has been established between the Baptist mission personnel and Baptists of Lebanon. We are one family, one household under God."

Khalaf was a program speaker at the 1985 Southern Baptist Foreign Missions Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina. He said then that he and his family would rather die in the Middle East than see "Christianity abolished from the land (region) where our Savior was born."

Just as Muslims look to Mecca, Christians in the Arab world look to Lebanon, he said. "When Christianity in Lebanon is safe and free, the morale of all Christians in the area is high."

Art Toalston writes for the FMB.

David Byrd will deliver Evangelism Lectures at MC

CLINTON — David Q. Byrd Jr., dean of the Boyce Bible School of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and a native Mississippian, will be the speaker for the Evangelism Lectures scheduled for Mississippi College Feb. 16-18.



Byrd

School, Mississippi College, and earned a Ph.D. from Southern Seminary, will be speaking during chapel services at 10 a.m. in Nelson Auditorium on Monday and Wednesday. The services are open to the public.

In addition to the chapel programs, he will also be speaking in various classes of the Department of Religion during the three-day period, according to John G. McCall, head of the Department of Religion and lectureship coordinator.

Six European groups cooperate

GLASGOW, Scotland — Directors of six Baptist foreign missions organizations in Europe have pledged greater cooperation. They intend, for example, "to offer the opportunity for partnerships in mission with one another."

Participating were directors of the European Baptist Mission, three organizations based in Sweden, one based in England and one serving Danish and Norwegian Baptists.

Americans will pay for government this year more than they will spend on all food, clothing, medical care and religious activities combined.

Devotional

Lessons from a rare breed

By Vernon Sikes

He was the kind of man I want to be like someday — a gentle man, an unassuming man who was perhaps best known for his loving attitude toward folks no matter who they were.



Sikes

I think I love him mainly because he was so genuine, a rare breed as it sometimes seems. He was the kind of person who was no one but himself, and one who could be trusted to be the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

As the years progressed, he grew to mean a great deal to me, but I'm afraid that he never knew how very much because, unlike him, I've not learned to be the person he was.

I'd give anything just to have one more session with him and to be able to watch him listen so carefully to whatever I said. If I could talk to him once more I think I'd ask him if he had some burden he would like to share with me for a change, for I know that he had a seemingly unfair amount of them.

This gravel truck driver and I sat one day as he described his relationship to Jesus, but it wasn't like anything I'd ever heard. His words were simple and unpretentious as he spoke of his Christ, but there was a combination of things that caused me to remember everything about that afternoon so vividly even after many years.

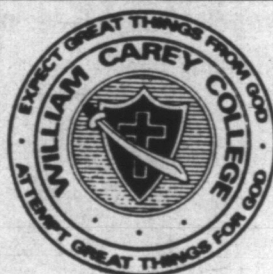
The look of his face, the way he looked straight into my eyes, even the way he clenched his fist in enthusiasm told me that I was in the presence of a man who loved, truly loved, his Lord.

If ever I've known anyone who lived Jesus' commandment which said "... and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength," (Mark 12:30) this man did.

He loved his Lord with an intensity seldom paralleled, and I can't help but believe that it was his intense love for God that caused him to have such a concentrated love for others.

Gentle, unassuming, loving, and genuine — that's the kind of man I'd like to be someday.

Vernon Sikes teaches Spanish at Yazoo City, High School and is a member of First Church, Yazoo City.



A reminder from William Carey College . . .

Observe Baptist Seminary,
College and School Day

Sunday, February 15

— A day set aside by the Southern Baptist Convention
for churches to honor Baptist education institutions

Also . . .

REGISTRATION - Carey on the Coast in Gulfport
Spring Term

Thursday, February 19, 1-6:30 p.m., Student Center
Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Music, Nursing

Day and Night Courses

— Undergraduate and Graduate —

FOR MORE INFORMATION 865-1500

REGISTRATION — Hattiesburg campus

Spring Ten-Week Term

Register at First Class Meeting

(Week of February 23-27)

— Day and Night Courses —

"The Use of Microcomputers in Churches"
(and eight other courses in various subject areas)

FOR MORE INFORMATION 582-6103





A music/drama team presented a special number during the conference, led by Ann Barlow and Dan Hall.

Woman cried, "If there's a God, show yourself"

(Continued from page 3)
could take Briscoe's place over. "Who's in charge?" demanded Bob. Briscoe was expecting the worst, but he answered truthfully.

When Briscoe answered, "The Lord Jesus Christ," Bob's knuckles whitened and he collapsed. "To the best of my knowledge," said Briscoe, Bob was not saved. "But it proved a reality for me — when I stand not in my own strength, but in his authority, I'm equipped to proclaim."

In a second message, Briscoe spoke of the characteristics of disciples which include being prepared to confront the issues that Christ raises, being prepared to confirm the laws that Christ makes, and being prepared to conform to the pattern that Christ outlines.

Briscoe said a person can tell a disciple — he keeps on following. He told of seeing a mile race in Oslo where two of the racers sped ahead of the Britishers who were champion milers. After half the course, they dropped out and were not mentioned in the news of the race.

The two were "rabbits;" they were half-milers who set the pace so that the milers could possibly finish quicker. The ones who made it into the news were "the ones who finished the course," said Briscoe.

Florida evangelist Jim Ponder told of the 146,000 who will die today. "Most will die and go to hell," he said. "I believe in every method you can use to reach people for Jesus," said Ponder, "as long as it's sincere, honest, and not manipulative."

Jim Henry, pastor of First Baptist Church, Orlando, considered the four items that are needed for a balanced church: worship, teaching, evangelism, and fellowship. He said if one shoves aside the other three, the church won't be healthy.

Henry told of being moved by the

Holy Spirit one day to pray over each pew in the church. It took him two hours, but the next day at invitation time, 55 people came forward to either proclaim their salvation or to move their letter.

One of those was a barmaid who entered the church at the middle of the service. She said that she was at the end of her rope and driving down the freeway said, "If there's a God, show yourself." Just then she saw the

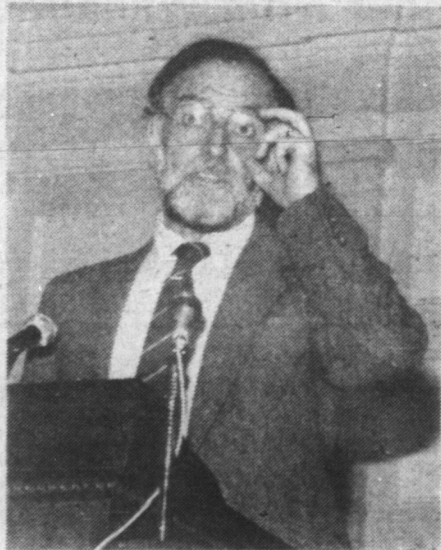
cross and steeple of First Baptist Church, Orlando. She pulled off the freeway and entered the church in time to hear the gospel message of Henry. She was saved that day. And the church began to help her find not only a new job, but a new life.

Jerry Young, pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, said the purpose of the church is "to proclaim God." He told the group, "If you want heaven to

shout, find someone who doesn't know Jesus and bring him in."

Young illustrated the need for prayer as people witness with the analogy of strawberry picking. When you send out a strawberry picker, he said, "You first find out if he can recognize strawberries when he sees them." Second, said Young, "You make sure strawberries happen not to be his weakness... So you need prayer."

Tim Nicholas photos



Stuart Briscoe



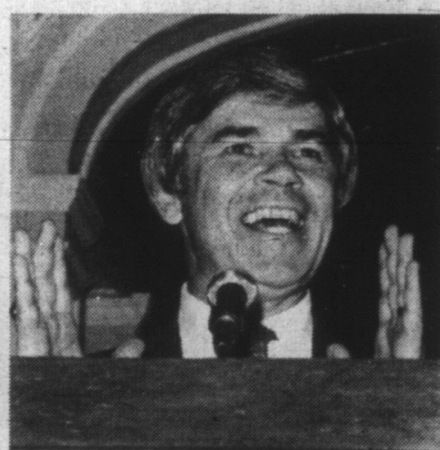
Jerry Young



Barry Landrum



Jim Ponder



Jim Henry



Guy Henderson

FMB toll-free hotline adds latest mission news

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's new toll-free "PrayerLine" telephone number is adding another service: the latest missions news.

Each Saturday and Sunday listeners can dial 1-800-ALL-SEEK (1-800-255-7335) for a two-minute report on missions news from around the world.

Already, hundreds of churches have used PrayerLine, organizers reported.

More than 2,700 people called during the first week of operation.

The 1,800 who called over that weekend got the latest word from Lebanon, where missionaries are grappling with a U.S. government order to leave the country within 30 days. Such updates on crisis situations calling for prayer will continue to be a feature of PrayerLine, said Minette Drumwright, who heads the board's

intercessory prayer emphasis.

The weekend news report also will focus on stories and information highlighting overseas prayer needs.

The news report will be taped by the Foreign Mission Board's news department, which also is the foreign bureau of Baptist Press.

Monday through Friday, Prayerline offers around-the-clock taped prayer requests from missionaries in 109 countries.

"PrayerLine" began in January to support the "concerts of prayer" for world evangelization called for by mission board trustees last December.

Southern Baptists are being challenged to set aside the first Sunday of every month for "concerted, united, sustained, extraordinary prayer" for the world.

Rankin missions rally/banquet is slated

The Fifth Annual Rankin Missions Rally/Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20, in the new banquet hall of the fellowship and study center at First Church, Brandon. This is the largest "Associational Gathering" of Rankin Baptists of the year.



Brister

The theme for the rally will be "Gifts Are For Giving." The keynote speaker will be J. W. Brister, director of missions, Hinds-Madison Baptist Association. He is a native of Isola, and a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

The program will feature, "Spotlight on Missions" by J. C. Renfro, director of missions, Rankin Association; and a skit, "Obey the Call" by Mrs. Cindy Stevens, associational BYW director. The Adult Choir, Oakdale Church, directed by Susan Clark, will provide special music. Miss Clark also serves as the associational music director.

The pastor or WMU director of each church is asked to turn in the number of meal reservations needed by calling Mrs. Anita May, acting associational WMU director, at 845-2688 or the associational office at 939-2182 (collect) no later than February 16. If child care is needed for preschoolers, also let them know how many to expect. There is no cost, but meal and nursery reservations are necessary.

CLASSIFIED

RATE 50¢ per word \$5.00 minimum. Cash with order except on contract advertising. Include name, address, zip code, and phone number in word count. No blind ads.

USED VAN NEEDED — Parchman Prison Ministry for Youth/Children Ministries. Prefer window-type 15 passenger. Will consider all offers. Contact Charles Jones, Box 66, Drew, MS 38737; (601) 745-2145.

The Mississippi Mission Box Scores

Each church is considering a suggested minimum goal (Great Commitment) and maximum goal (Greater Commitment). The target range gives each church an idea of what is required to achieve success for The Mississippi Mission. Listed below are the exciting results of some of the churches reporting thus far!

Greater Commitments (challenge target) Subscribed:

Church	Goal	Pledged
Bay Springs, Porterville	\$ 7-8,000	\$ 10,000!
First, Tupelo	121-151,000	135,000!
Dundee, Tunica	5-6,000	45,000!
First, Tunica	5-6,000	6,000!
Old Oak Grove, Myrtle	4-5,000	5,000!
Poplar Springs, Hazlehurst	1-2,000	2,155!

Great Commitments (minimum target) Subscribed:

Church	Goal	Pledged
Bluff Springs, Eupora	\$ 2-3,000	\$ 2,000!
Lantrip, Bruce	2-3,000	2,000!
Oak Grove, Pittsboro	1-2,000	1,000!
Providence, Banner	500-1,000	500!
Walthall, Walthall	6-7,000	6,000!
Birmingham, Sallito	6-7,000	6,000!
Chalybeate, Walnut	6-7,000	6,000!
Antioch, Prentiss	6-7,000	6,000!
Bay Springs, Bay Springs	41-47,000	41,000!
Enterprise, Enterprise	20-22,000	20,000!
Central, McComb	40-48,000	40,000!

Pledges near \$23,000,000

Harry Vickery, general chairman for The Mississippi Mission, reports that \$22,808,739 has been pledged to date.

The Mississippi Mission is a unified endowment campaign to raise \$40 million for Mississippi College, William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and the Baptist Children's Village.

The total pledged includes \$1,177,846 from the churches of Mississippi. Said Vickery, "This is outstanding when one considers that this represents 11 percent of the \$16 million church division goal from only three percent of the churches."

A total of 465 trained pastor and layman teams are presenting the appeal to the nearly 2,000 Mississippi Baptist churches. "It is our hope and prayer," said Joe Tuten, "that every church will see the long term benefits

for our young people through Christian higher education and child care the \$40 million will provide." Tuten is pastor of Calvary Church, Jackson, and shares the leadership of the Congregational Gifts Division of the campaign with William B. Alexander of Cleveland.

The campaign, which only continues actively for another 12 weeks, has a number of benefits, according to Vickery, a Greenville layman. "Continued care must be given to children in need, endowed chairs need to be established to recruit and keep the finest professors, and additional scholarships are necessary to attract the ablest students and to avoid pricing the qualified student out of attending," Vickery added, "Funds will also be used for program enrichment, library materials and facilities support. This is the heart of the effort."

Carey alumni to hear Mrs. Kelly

HATTIESBURG — The featured speaker for this year's William Carey College homecoming luncheon will be



Marjorie Rowden Kelly, wife of Earl Kelly. Kelly is the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The program will be at noon Saturday, Feb. 21, in the

Kelly Wilkes Dining Hall on the Hattiesburg campus.

Mrs. Kelly served for 17 years on the administrative staff of William Carey College as vice president for college relations and associate professor of religion. She was a missionary to Israel.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, the athletic banquet will be held in Wilkes Dining Hall. All Crusader athletes and

former athletes are invited.

At 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 21, the Crusader 5K Run will begin. Anyone is welcome to participate. Reunions for the classes of 1917, 1927, 1937, 1957, 1967 and 1977 are planned for 10 a.m.

Alumni may register for the luncheon from 11 a.m.-noon.

At 2 p.m. a coffee hour honoring the outstanding alumnus and the class of '37 will be held at the president's home.

A doubleheader of old timers' games featuring the Lady 'Saders and the Crusaders will begin at 3 p.m. with a pep rally immediately following.

To conclude the evening, the Lady 'Saders will take on Belhaven College at 5:30, while the men will play Belhaven at 7:30.

Any alumni or friends of the college needing more information about homecoming may call (601) 582-6223.

Bills are out of committee, ready for legislative vote

The following bills have passed at least one committee in the house or senate and are to be voted on within the next few days:

Alcohol: HB 392 would exempt certain persons who inform parents of a child's unlawful use of alcohol or drugs from legal liability; HB 1195 would redefine "hotel" under the ABC laws so to allow unlimited alcoholic beverage sales in "hotels" (or motels) with more than 50 rooms.

Children: HB 848 — this bill would call for the registration (not licensure) of residential child care facilities (not day schools, preschools, or similar non-residential, non-24 hour facilities). The bill prohibits the state from involvement in the "form, manner, or content of religious instruction or the religious curriculum," would automatically register all facilities already operating in the state, and would allow the facilities to hire workers of their creed or persuasion without being in violation of fair hiring practice statutes.

Criminal Justice: HB 196 and SB 2379 would require a county to pay for the initial medical examination of a rape victim; HB 435 would allow for the arrest of an individual without a warrant where there is probable cause of an act of domestic violence.

Drugs: HB 85 would revise the listing of controlled substances to include new drugs that need to be kept from the general public.

Education: HB 145 and SB 2119

would raise the compulsory school attendance age to 16 and the phase-in time would be cut in half; SB 2138 would authorize the Department of Education to conduct statewide pupil testing in certain grades and allow a functional literacy test.

Family: HB 159 would create irreconcilable differences as a new legal ground for divorce; SB 2045 would allow blood tests in paternity suits by court order.

Gambling: HCR 57 would amend the constitution to legalize a state lottery; HB 120 and HB 121 would allow legalization of pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing in our state; HB 717 would allow any non-profit civic, educational, or religious organization to run a bingo parlor and hold bingo games; SB 2282 and SB 2283 would permit jai alai (hi-lie) as a pari-mutuel wagering sport and would require a referendum by the citizens of Harrison County.

Health: SB 2392 would delete the "repealer" on the "Vulnerable Adult Act;" SB 2433 would prohibit the sale of human tissue, organs, and bones. They could be given or donated but human parts could not be sold for profit; SB 2666 would mandate that following death, the surviving kin would be contacted about the possibility of donating organs to a needy recipient.

Media: HB 59 would allow the supervisors of any county to adopt or

finances regulating community television systems outside a city.

SAFETY: HB 461 would require compulsory automobile liability insurance; HB 583 would allow for reduction of automobile liability insurance premiums upon the completion of a legitimate driving course.

Other: HB 167 would require charitable organizations which solicit funds from the public; HB 346 would prohibit dog fighting and related activities; SB 2373 would enact the "Victim Impact Statement Act." This would allow a victim of a crime to submit a statement regarding loss related to crime even if the court did not ask for such a statement; SB 2645 stipulates that a person who applies for unemployment benefits cannot be rejected for using pregnancy as the cause of the unemployment.

Additional information can be secured by contacting the Christian Action Commission, Box 530, Jackson, 39205 or by calling (601) 968-3800.

Thais start 37th church

HAADYAI, Thailand — People overflowed the rented quarters of the newest Baptist church in Thailand at its opening service recently. Naa Muang Baptist Church represents the 34th to be organized in Thailand since Southern Baptist missionaries began working there 37 years ago. The building holds up to 42 people.

A MESSAGE TO MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS FROM MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE



Mississippi College
CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI 39056

Telephone (601) 925-3201

Office of the President

February 12, 1987

Dear Friends:

Each year at this time Mississippi Baptists observe Baptist Seminary, College, and School Day. It is a most significant time and an opportunity for us to reflect upon our role in Christian higher education and our place in Mississippi Baptist tradition, a position for which we are truly grateful.

Since 1850, Mississippi College has flourished under the direction of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Mississippi College continues to prosper today because of support rendered by those people — primarily Mississippi Baptists — who deem its work significant and who hold out promise for a future steadfast and strong in Christian principles and reaching to the heights in higher education. Mississippi College aspires to ensure that generations to come may share the rewards of a college career at an institution dedicated to serving God and man and one so firmly founded in Mississippi Baptist life.

Thank you, Mississippi Baptists, for granting to us the opportunity of serving you. We look with great expectations to the future and to the continuance of our exemplary relationship which has thus far distinguished a magnificent history.

Sincerely,

Lewis Nobles
President

Farmers/oil workers in crisis

"... got to see God through you"

By Tim Nicholas

The jokes are getting grim.

A Natchez, Miss., geologist told a group of Baptists recently that in addition to AIDS, there is now a problem called RAIDS — "Recently Acquired Income Deficiency."

The joke could just as easily be found among the farmers of America as among oil industry workers. Both have been hit hard with economic reversals represented primarily by drops in farm and oil prices. Mississippi Governor Bill Allain in his recent State of the State address said that farm and oil problems account for two percent of the state's unemployment figures.

The Home Mission Board and Mississippi Baptist Convention, along with local associations, are sponsoring a series of crisis conferences for farmers, oil industry workers, and ministers to see how Baptist churches can help.

In the three meetings held thus far in Mississippi — three more are scheduled — the speakers, some of whom were victims of the crisis, said that people in crisis need friends.

Bob Neill is a self-professed "back-slidden Baptist" from Leland, Miss., an almost-former farmer who is writing a book, his second, called "How to Lose Your Farm in Ten Easy Lessons and Cope With It."

After telling the 95 participants at the meeting in Cleveland about his attempted suicide, Neill talked about how a person can begin to feel desperate.

"You get to the point where you think the God that makes it rain and makes it dry must have something against (you) personally," said Neill, adding, "When a fellow thinks God doesn't love him anymore, you're near the end of your rope."

Neill said he'd been a Christian 15 years and that he'd been an active church member before his financial setbacks. "This may happen to you,"



Group at a crisis ministry meeting prays for one another.

Neill told the farmers. A person "may feel isolated from family, friends, and his God. When you hear Fred Fodrod has problems and ain't gon' get financed, you cannot be a friend in the good times only."

Neill said that nothing can be done on an individual basis "about the way the government's messed up Fred, (Virtually all the farmers blame their problems on various government policies.) But you can go down there and take him a ham."

"He ain't gon' be as much fun to talk to as he used to be — but that's when he needs you. If he's got to the point where he believes God does not love (him), he's got to see God through you."

Another speaker to the farm groups meeting in Clarksdale and in Greenville echoed Neill's sentiments. A Methodist minister, Milton Boyd, outlining his various farming disasters, said "I thought about blowing my brains out — I thought about shooting some others . . . but I knew I had to meet my master on the other side."

Boyd said that Americans are becoming too individualistic to help

each other out of binds. "And we farmers are the world's worst. We must be community. We must come back to . . . when the barn burns down everybody comes over to raise a barn . . ."

He added, "Who owns the land? God owns; we tend."

In an interview at an oil crisis meeting in Natchez, the wife of a geologist told the Baptist Record that "other people feel uncomfortable around us." Kitty Kyzar, whose husband John had been laid off and has started doing independent consulting, said it doesn't hurt her to tell others that her husband is unemployed, or that they can't afford to go out to eat as often as before. What hurts is that people stop inviting.

"I'd rather them ask me so I can say we can't go this time, please ask us again." In other words, "Don't disassociate," she said.

Mrs. Kyzar said that parents of small children need to tell them exactly what is going on in the family so that when other children ask them, "Why doesn't your daddy go to work anymore?" they will understand.

"When things get bad and we don't

know where to turn, we read the Bible and pray together," said Mrs. Kyzar, among whose three children, one, Russell, is in Southwestern Seminary planning for a foreign missions career in Costa Rica. The prayer is "the most stabilizing force we have between the two of us."

Longtime family farmers Leroy and Dorothy Johnson who live near Shelby in the Mississippi Delta just handed back 1,600 acres and their home place to the federal land bank because they couldn't make payments. They still have other farm land, but it still hurts.

"You just get kind of numb and have to close it off, maybe don't participate as much because you have enough to handle . . . you kind of center down on your own," says Dorothy, who with her husband is a member of First Baptist Church, Clarksdale.

The Clarksdale crisis meeting was the first of its kind they'd been to. "It definitely was good for us." He said more people are wanting to get together to talk.

"Farmers are usually silent people as far as their own problems are concerned," said Leroy who began as a sharecropper with his wife 38 years ago and graduated to renting, and then to owning their land. Now others own their land.

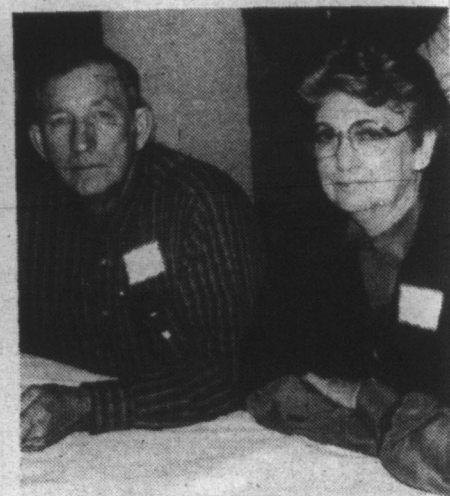
"We knew that without the Lord we wouldn't come through this," said Dorothy.

"I don't care how strong your faith is, you're still going to walk with that pain every day," said Dorothy. She said non-farmers don't seem to understand. They seem to believe that the only change is that some farmers who once were wealthy, are now in financial reversals. "At 60 years of age, we're too old to retrain or find another job. Others don't understand that farmers have 'lost that way of life."

"We were good farmers," she said. Added Leroy, "This country stands to lose something precious."

In addition to a number of local helping agencies who sent representatives to the Mississippi meetings — including a new farmer/creditor mediation service — three men spoke at each.

Stan Rushing, a former Delta pastor, now a counselor, compared the career loss to the grieving process. He



Leroy and Dorothy Johnson are Delta farmers who say people are wanting to get together to talk.

said a lot of people will try to take a person's grief away — with too many words or pious platitudes having to do with God's role in the matter.

"God's trying to teach you a lesson in all this," Rushing said that well meaning friends will say. "My theology doesn't allow for that kind of thinking," he said.

Career loss is "a major wound that takes time to heal." After the stages of grief — shock and numbness, then guilt and despair, then gradually accepting what has happened, then learning from the experience, "I'd add a final stage," said Rushing, "where you become a wounded healer . . . the best healer of all."

Rushing told the groups that "A loving presence can heal in ways that words can never do." He added, "The greatest resource available is God's outrageous grace. Nothing in all this world, not a farm crisis or any other crisis, can separate us from the love of our Lord."

Earl Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, told the groups that a friend once told him that all the water in the world can't sink a boat until it gets inside the boat. Discussing the Bible's view of adversity, Kelly pointed to John 16:33 as offering "some kind of guideline to give sanity to work through all this." The Scripture notes, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

Home Mission Board staffer Gary Farley told the groups about the various denominations offering help. He said he hoped to get agricultural missions groups to discuss problems domestically. A Kentucky director of missions is forming a marketing club and Southern Baptists have U.S. hunger funds — \$12,000 of which was spent last year in the North Delta Baptist Association alone.

But Farley said he saw no immediate solutions. "I don't see anybody really smart enough to get us out of this mess. We need prayer."

Bob Neill told the group a banker friend's time is 2:30 a.m. That's the time he wakes up and can't get back to sleep over worrying about the crisis. The banker told Neill he has a "worry list" of farmers I pray for. It takes about an hour." Only then, he said, can he go back to sleep.

Farmer shook his fist at God

Harry Boschert might have seen Jesus once.

The former farmer of 27 years, was raised chopping cotton and driving tractors. "I knew God wanted me out there. I was feeding people," Boschert told a farm crisis meeting in Greenville.

But he had some bad years. In fact, since 1974, only 79 and 82 were good crops. In the drought of 1980, with 28 straight days of 100 degree weather, he watched his crop cook in front of his eyes.

In 1984, he thought he was going to have a good crop. Just before time to pick, it started raining and rained one solid month. His beans sprouted in the field.

As Boschert told this story, his wife was sitting in the back of the room at First Church, Greenville, quietly crying.

Boschert said he stood out in that field in the rain and "shook my fist at the Lord. 'Why are you doing this to me?'" he asked God. "I'd never done anything to him."

That December, as he drove home from Clarksdale from the bank working on refinancing, he passed a man picking up cans on the side of the road. "He waved at me and smiled. I didn't know who he was. Maybe he was the Lord," recalled Boschert. Then he told himself, "You are the biggest fool. This guy is completely happy picking up cans while you're com-

pletely miserable."

He went home and told his wife and employees he was through farming. And though he still has farm related problems, he's still out. He tried to quit work the first week he had a non-farming job (he's at Staple Cotton) but Linda talked him into staying.

He had known it was time to quit farming when he couldn't get a check with just his name on it. "Staple Cotton writes me a check every month with nobody's name on it but mine," he says.

Boschert said his problem with the Lord was "I kept telling him the solution to my problems." When he "finally got low enough to ask," he prayed, "I want you to work it out for me."

Baptist college enrollment rises

By Lonnie Wilkey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Predictions of declining student enrollments failed to materialize once again at Southern Baptist colleges and universities.

Last August the U.S. Department of Education's Center for Statistics forecast college enrollments would decrease by 83,000 students. Instead, a recent federal survey of colleges indicated enrollments grew by 151,000 students, a 1.2 percent increase.

Southern Baptist colleges and universities, however, saw their enrollments increase 2.0 percent, from 95,539 students in 1985 to 97,453 students during the 1986 fall semester.

According to figures released to the Southern Baptist Education Commission, 35 of the 51 Southern Baptist junior and senior colleges reported increases ranging from 0.4 to 26.1 percent. Figures do not include students enrolled in non-credit courses.

Missouri Baptist College in St. Louis reported the largest increase, 26.1 percent, while Virginia Intermont College in Bristol saw its enrollment decline by 18.29 percent.

Four of the five Baptist junior colleges experienced declining enrollments. Only Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga., reported an increase, 16.0 percent.

In terms of total enrollment, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, is the largest Southern Baptist college, with 11,556 students. Mississippi College, Clinton, Miss., is the seventh largest in enrollment with 3,598.

The 1986 fall enrollment figures and the percentage of increase or decrease at Mississippi Baptist colleges were: Blue Mountain College, 313, (10.6); Mississippi College, 3,598, (-0.3); William Carey College, 2,004, (12.7).

Lonnie Wilkey writes for the SBC Education Commission.

Foreign Board studies ministries for deaf

By Erich Bridges

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board is studying ways to involve more deaf Southern Baptists in missions and increase ministries to an estimated 5 million to 10 million deaf people of the world.

During its December meeting, the board adopted a statement on deaf ministries in response to a motion made at the 1986 Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Atlanta. The motion, referred to the Foreign Mission Board by the convention's Committee on Order of Business, called on the board to reverse a perceived policy that it would not appoint deaf people as missionaries.

"Contrary to the perception noted in the motion at the Southern Baptist Convention, the Foreign Mission Board does not have policies precluding the appointment of deaf personnel," the statement said. "Our appointments are based on field requests. We do not have field requests calling for the matching of gifts and skills of the non-hearing with related field needs and opportunities."

But the statement went on to report that mission board staff members have been meeting for several years with representatives from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf, a national fellowship. Meetings and correspondence have centered on exploring the needs for ministry among deaf people overseas and ways deaf Southern Baptists can get

involved.

In October, several deaf volunteers from Applewood Baptist Church in Wheat Ridge, Colo., participated in a partnership evangelism crusade coordinated by missionaries and Baptists in South Korea.

Board staff members and missionaries are investigating possible ministries for deaf mission workers in other countries. Baptist ministries to the deaf or deaf congregations already exist in Japan, Taiwan, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Colombia.

In February, board personnel and leaders from the Southern Baptist Conference of the Deaf will travel together to the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Trinidad. They will survey the potential for ministries to the deaf in those countries and the possibilities for using deaf mission personnel.

Staff members also have identified at least a dozen missionaries with ability to communicate in American Sign Language. A manual may be developed to aid them, other missionaries, and volunteers in ministering to the deaf.

"Some Christian groups do have evangelistic ministries among deaf overseas and are reporting response. We cannot avoid the conclusion that there is a need, that there are opportunities and that there is response," said board researcher Clark Scanlon.

Erich Bridges writes for FMB.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Feb. 15-18 Home Mission Study (WMU Emphasis)
- Feb. 16-17 DiscipleYouth Workshop; Central Hills Retreat; 6 p.m., 16th-4 p.m., 17th (CT)
- Feb. 17 State Growth Spiral Base Conference; FBC, Hattiesburg; 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (SS)
- Feb. 19-21 Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association; Biloxi (MBREA)
- Feb. 21 State Youth Four-Part Music Festival; FBC, Brandon; 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CM)

Thursday, February 12, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



Faces And Places
by anne washburn mcwilliams

To my Valentine, with love

It's quite a milestone to celebrate a golden wedding anniversary, as did Dennis and Mildred Conniff on February 1 when their children and grandchildren gave them a reception at First Baptist Church of Jackson. But right now, my Valentine, we're still concentrating on our 32nd year.

Remember how we promised to love and to cherish, for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health...

We've mostly been poorer moneywise, but mostly been richer in a lot of other ways. We've seen together some of the best of times and some of the worst of times. Mostly we have seen days of good health. Yet how quickly the dart of a doctor's diagnosis could burst our balloon of believing we will last on this earth forever. How brief are the days here of all of us mortals.

I've been thinking how good it is to have a Valentine's Day and how appropriate it would be to use that day to tell others how much we love and appreciate them — not just our husbands or wives, but our parents, our children, our friends, our co-workers, someone who is lonely and needs to be loved — and maybe even

tell our enemies. Did not Jesus say for us to love our enemies and to pray for those who spitefully use us? Life is too short to waste a second on bitterness and hard feelings.

I've seen again and again the love shown in your own large family, how you rally around each other when some crisis occurs. Wasn't it a sample of such love when Etta and Bill and Odell came the other day and brought the makings of a fine lunch, and Odell and Etta had it all cooked and ready for the table when I got home? Fresh mustard and rutabagas, deer steaks, cornbread, and hot peach cobbler. "This will be a celebration of W.D.'s birthday," I suggested. "He'll be 60 on February 12."

Last weekend Minnie and Sybil and Vernon gave you plenty of tender loving care while I drove to Alabama to get Mama. What would I have done without Vera on Dec. 7? Or Speedy and Helen and all the others on Dec. 2?

Fairly often since you retired, my Valentine, I'll admit I've felt resentment. Why should you have nothing to do but sit around and watch television

or go fishing while I got up every morning and drove to the office? Now I confess I'll have to change my tune. Since you've been recuperating from surgery and I have been doing your chores, I've found out you do a lot more than I gave you credit for! I've shoveled ashes and taken out the garbage and built fires and brought in wood and cooked all the suppers and gone to the grocery store and raked a few leaves and... Well, you know the list, don't you? I beg your pardon for thinking you didn't do anything.

Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another."

May the Lord teach me to lavish love on others as he has so lavishly loved me.

Believe me, my Valentine, I could never stop loving you.

It would be easier
To stop oak leaves from falling
To make the Mississippi River run backward
To keep the Yazoo clay from cracking
Or to hold a moonbeam in my hand.

SCRAPBOOK

Mommy's Valentine

You're Mommy's little angel
As precious as can be,
Not very big, that's certain,
But all the world to me.
I love you, little darling,
I'm very glad you're mine
So once again, I tell you
You're Mommy's Valentine.

You're Mommy's little laddie,
A big important part
of every new tomorrow,
You've stolen Mommy's heart;
No one could ever doubt it

You're all that's dear and fine,
A treasured little sweetheart,
You're Mommy's Valentine.

How very fast you're growing,
So soon the time will come
When someone else will steal the heart
of Mommy's precious son;
Give her your love my darling,
But promise through all time,
That I shall always rate a kiss
From Mommy's Valentine.

—Teresa Heflin Chaney
Meridian

Flitting finches

Thoughts flit around in my mind
Like finches in a treetop.
Each thought is fraught with worry,
And barbed to the point of pain.
Think positive, oh, my soul;
Negative thinking is like decay,
And can only lead to the depths of
despair.
Let my thoughts soar to the heights,
Please, God.

Trouble borrowed
Must be repaid in kind,
And nothing good is gained.
Tomorrow is a better day,
And today is folly — lost.
So, grief must surge beyond confines;
And, some day, in their own way,
The finches
Shall come to rest.

—Maxine E. McAdory
Jackson

Take a look

If you could look inside my mind
You are all that you would find.

—Tim Nicholas

"None liveth to himself"

A little clock in a jeweler's window
stopped one morning at twenty
minutes after eight. It remained silent
and inactive for half an hour.

School children, looking at the
clock, stopped to play; people hurrying
to the train began to walk more
slowly; professional men paused to
chat with each other.

All were late because one small
clock stopped. Never had these people
known how much they depended
upon that clock until it led them
astray.

Many are thus unconsciously
depending upon the influence of Christians.
You may think you have no influence;
but if you are a Christian you cannot go
wrong in one little act without leading
others astray. "None of us liveth to himself."

Love is the key

Love is the key that sees
us through so much pain
For to be without love
is like a sky without rain.

—Romy Case
Brookhaven

capsules

Court rejects case MBMC offers free

CPR classes

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Supreme Court has refused to review two lower rulings that San Francisco officials were wrong when they refused to rent space to a religious group at the city's international airport.

The case against the San Francisco airport authority — the official body that controls the West Coast city's international airport — was brought by the Christian Science Church. The authority had refused during the years 1981-84 to continue leasing space to the religious body for a Christian Science reading room. The reading room had been a tenant at the airport since 1956.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is offering free cardiopulmonary resuscitation classes for family members of children ages birth to eight years old on Thurs., Feb. 19, at 6:30 p.m.

The class is designed to provide participants with a knowledge base for recognizing a need for and performing infant and child CPR according to the standards of the American Heart Association.

Attendance is limited. To register or receive more information call 968-1044.

El Paso celebrates Book Stores consolidate film, video center

EL PASO, Texas — Workers at the Foreign Mission Board's Spanish Publishing House stopped to celebrate when it was announced in December that the organization had surpassed its previous all-time sales record, set in 1981. The new record totaled more than \$2.75 million in sales of Christian literature in some 70 countries.

Much of the increase has come from soaring sales of the publishing house's revision of the Spanish New Testament and its new Integrated Curriculum for Bible Study.

Missionary Robert Tucker recently succeeded Argentine layman N. Aldo Broda as director of the publishing house.

NASHVILLE — Baptist Film and Video Centers in Memphis, Tenn., and Louisville, Ky., closed Feb. 1.

The closings will centralize services in three remaining locations.

Circulation of the more than 700 film and video titles available through Baptist Film and Video Centers will continue through centers in Arlington, Texas; Atlanta, Ga.; and Greensboro, N.C.

Persons in Alabama, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee for service may call the Atlanta center at 1-800-334-2675.

Roberts gets million

TULSA, Okla. (EP) — Television evangelist Oral Roberts received about \$1.6 million in cash and pledges in the 10 days following his Jan. 4 announcement that God would take his life in March unless he raises \$4.5 million, according to ministry spokeswoman Jan Dargatz. Dargatz said that Roberts literally means he will die unless the money is raised in time.

The \$4.5 million is what is still needed to fund an \$8 million scholarship program for the medical school students at Oral Roberts University who agree to work as medical missionaries.

Vatican heads list

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — The Vatican's struggle to enforce orthodoxy in the Catholic Church in the United States was the most significant religious news topic of 1986, according to a poll of the Religion Writers Association (RNA). The poll noted the curtailing of Seattle Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen's authority, and the stripping of Father Charles Curran's Catholic teaching privileges as examples of that growing struggle.

Television evangelist Pat Robertson's announcement that he may seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1988 ranked second on the poll. Controversy over public school textbook content was named third in the list of "most significant" developments.

Women heading more families

More than one-fourth of American families with children — and more than 60 percent of black families — were headed by a single parent in 1985, the Census Bureau reported.

That compares to 12.9 percent in 1970.

The overwhelming majority are headed by women — 4.9 million of the 5.7 million white, single-parent families and 2.6 million of the 2.8 million that are black.

In addition to the factor of divorce, many women are having children and getting married later — or not marrying at all.

—Compiled from news reports

Bakker breaks ground

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (EP) — PTL President Jim Bakker broke ground for a new \$100 million ministry center at his 2,500-acre Heritage USA Christian Retreat Center in South Carolina.

The 1.25 million square-foot Ministry Center, based on the design of London's Crystal Palace, will be built on a 40-acre site near Heritage Grand Hotel. It will contain a 12,000-seat auditorium, an 18,000-seat exhibition area, and a 5,000-seat television studio. A hydraulic wall will allow the two larger facilities to be used for major events.

Yazoo City's church secretary to observe 30th anniversary Korean crusade wins 3,042

Linda Jenkins, church secretary, will observe the anniversary of 30 years on Feb. 15 as an employee of First Church, Yazoo City.



Miss Jenkins, a native of Clarksdale, calls Yazoo City "hometown" since she was seven years old when her family moved to the Yazoo Delta. She was graduated from the Yazoo City High School with honors in the class of 1956. She continued her education through classes at Mississippi College and through the years has updated her secretarial skills by attending seminars at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.; and secretarial workshops offered by the Church Administration Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Miss Jenkins joined the First, Yazoo City, staff on Feb. 15, 1957 during the pastorate of Harold A. Shirley. She has served as church secretary, receptionist, and as pastor's secretary, and has now made history as the person with the longest tenure as a paid staff member there. Webb Brame, pastor emeritus, served between the years of 1923 and 1951, or only 28 years.

A member of First Church, Yazoo City, Miss Jenkins serves as director of a children's Sunday School department. She is one of the study leaders in an adult Church Training group; a member of the Sanctuary Choir; a representative on the associational executive council; member of the Church Flower Committee; assistant church clerk; and coordinates the church's benevolence ministry.

Since 1972, she has served as treasurer of the Yazoo County Baptist Association. She has been on a number of associational committees, including the Budget Committee.

When you hire people who are smarter than you, it just proves that you are more intelligent in the long run!

Make yourself indispensable and you will move up. Act as though you are indispensable and you will move out.

There's just one thing about rules for success — they do not work unless we do.

Call for Free BROCHURE
BAPTISTRIES HEATERS, PUMPS FACTORY DIRECT
TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679
TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679
FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO.
3511 HIXSON PIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415

Mississippi Valley Gas Company
Gas gives you more for your money.

She has been a member of the Mozart Music Club since 1958 and has served in every office of the club. She is a commissioned Notary Public for Yazoo County.

Her professional organizations include membership in the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association, an organization she has served as second vice president, first vice-president, and then president.

She is a state-approved worker for the Church Administration Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. In this capacity she has led conferences, including area secretaries' conferences; conferences at the Baptist Building and at Camp Garaywa; and during Staff Week at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, where she coordinated the secretaries' section of Pastor/Church Staff Week.

The pastor of the Yazoo City church is James F. Yates who observed his 25th anniversary as pastor in 1986.

SEOUL, South Korea — Seventy-two Southern Baptist volunteers from 16 states led 3,042 Koreans to faith in Christ during a partnership evangelism crusade late last year.

More than 900 Korean Baptists rededicated their lives to Christ and 25 made a commitment to Christian service. The volunteers worked with Baptists and missionaries in churches and evangelistic visits to homes, businesses, hospitals, schools and factories.

Three deaf members of Applewood Baptist Church, Wheat Ridge, Colo., participated in the efforts, sharing their faith with many deaf and hearing Koreans and encouraging ministry to the deaf.

When one door of happiness closes, another opens. But often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the other which has been opened for us. — Helen Keller

ACTS
SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

REVISED

SCHEDULE

Effective

January 11,

1987

CST	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THUR.	FRI.	SAT.
5:00	Plant Groom David Wade	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Sargent Preston Lesse	Lane Ranger Carson Coco Kid
6:00	Changed Lives One in the Spirit	Vegetable Soup	Villa Alegre	Sunshine Factory	Carrasco-Hendrix	Infirmary Factory	Moody Science Family Foundations
7:00	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunday School Lesson Dawey and Goldth
8:00	Methodist Hour	Prime Timers	Proffes	Word of Life in Concert	Human Denomation Great Churches	At Home With the Bible	Sunshine Factory
9:00	In Touch	Clue Pasta	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Reboop	Shaggy the Kangaroo Lane Ranger Carson
10:00	Joy of Music	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Coco Kid Our World
11:00	ACTS Preterian Hour	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	In Concert
12:00	The Baptist Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Country Crossroads
1:00	Christopher Columbus The Sunday Selection	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Jim Houston Outdoors
2:00		Cape Daily	Cape Daily	Cape Daily	Cape Daily	Cape Daily	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	Great Churches	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Dawey and Goldth Sunshine Factory
4:00	Joy of Music	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Sargent Preston	Aggament Country Crossroads
5:00	ACTS Preterian Hour	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Lesse	Jim Houston Outdoors
6:00	This is the Life	Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Dawey and Goldth	Lane Ranger Carson	Shaggy the Kangaroo Lane Ranger Carson
7:00	Changed Lives	Proffes	Word of Life	Music is	First Things First	Prime Timers	David Wade
8:00	One in the Spirit	Great Churches	In Concert	Great Churches	Invitation to Life	Country Crossroads	In Concert
9:00	Baptist Hour	Cape	Cape	Cape	Cape	Cape	Moody Science Family Foundations
10:00	Christopher Columbus	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Sunday School Lesson This is the Life
11:00		Bill Cosby	Shari Lewis	Mickey Rooney	Reboop	Clue Pasta	Christopher Columbus
12:00	Gloria	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Our World In Concert
1:00		Proffes	Word of Life	Music is	First Things First	Prime Timers	Super Handyman
2:00		Cape	Cape	Cape	Cape	Cape	Plant Groom David Wade
3:00	The Baptist Hour	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Encore Theatre	Moody Science Family Foundations
4:00	Christopher Columbus						Sunday School Lesson Shaggy the Kangaroo

AVAILABLE IN THESE AREAS

Cleveland Warner Amex Cable Ch 10
Greenville McCaw Cable Ch 15
Hollandale Broadband Cable Ch 17
Jackson Capitol Cable Ch 14
Meridian Comcast Cable Ch 11
Hattiesburg U.A. Cable Ch 6
Laurel Laurel Community Cable Ch 20

For information contact:

Farrell Blankenship
Miss. Bapt. Conv. Bd.
P O Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Thailand celebrates New Year's thrice

Part III of III
By Maxine Stewart

Thailand is one of the few countries to celebrate New Year's Day three times each year. January 1, the traditional New Year, is celebrated

throughout the country. Then Chinese New Year is in February; Thai New Year is April 13.

Thai New Year

SWADDI PI MAI! (Happy New Year!) The Thai New Year falls on April 13. This hearty greeting can be heard for days throughout Thailand as everyone extends good wishes for the New Year.

This day is also SONGKRAN DAY, the Water Festival Day, so Thai New Year is highly celebrated. It is the day of free-for-all water battles in the cities, towns, markets, villages, and along the country roadsides as friends and relatives douse each other with water as a sign of friendship. Water erupts from bathing bowls, cans, buckets, coconut shells, water pistols, plastic bags, water hoses, and other containers. Those traveling in vehicles, private or public, are not exempt from this 'blessing' if the windows are rolled down. Bus loads of people are often drenched.

About 18 years ago, we were traveling down a country road on SONGKRAN DAY, New Year's Day. As we were passing a group of people along the roadside, suddenly a plastic bag of liquid came flying through the open car window, spilling over Bob. Immediately we became aware it was whiskey as the stench filled the car. Going to another province to spend the holiday with missionary friends, he did have a change of clothes with him. The man who parted with his alcoholic drink evidently wanted to give the FARANGS (foreigners) a 'blessing' on New Year's Day and this was the only liquid he had at that time.

April is normally the hottest month of the year in Thailand. SONGKRAN DAY is not only welcome, but anticipated for weeks, even months, in advance.

The day begins with early morning merit-making by offering food to the monks, releasing caged birds into the air and fish into rivers and streams. This day is designed as an occasion to express gratitude. The young express gratitude to their parents, elderly relatives, government officials and others whom they have come to highly respect. Scented water or jasmine, rose petals, and orchid blossoms is poured over the palms of their hands while a verbal blessing is given.

Many young Thai visit the Bang Kae Home for the Aged and have a water pouring ceremony for the occupants as they are aware that not all elderly people are fortunate enough to get the attention due them on SONGKRAN DAY. So they have a Happy New Year as well.

As stated previously, SONGKRAN DAY is a day of merit-making. The Fisheries Department sometimes releases 100 million fish. Various species of fish, shrimp, and turtles are

released into 2,000 water sources throughout the country. This helps to keep the streams well stocked. Gold leaf, jasmine flower leis, incense, fruits and rice are offered before Buddha images.

In the olden days, SONGKRAN DAY was simply a matter of pouring scented water from a silver bowl over the heads and down the necks of friends and neighbors, but this day has changed with the times. Now, the palms of the older people are used while water is splashed, splattered and squirted on the good natured Thai people. Even some of the policemen are soaked. Perhaps on a hot tropical day, standing in the scorching sun at a busy intersection in Bangkok directing the ever increasing traffic, he finds this a welcome relief.

Phra Buddha Sihing image is taken from the National Museum compound in Bangkok and carried in procession to be installed at the Pramane Grounds (Sanam Luang) for the day. As the image is paraded through the streets, the crowds may reverently throw perfumed water over it. After it is installed, all who wish are permitted to sprinkle lustral water (water blessed by Buddhist monks) over the image. Other especially revered images may be set up a short distance from the Phra Buddha Sihing image. Gold leaf may be applied to these images (merit-making).

Young boys, and sometimes older ones, roam around the outskirts of the crowd looking for opportunities to douse the unexpected. The people at Sanam Luang are usually dressed in their most colorful clothes. They also display their happiest and most relaxed holiday personalities.

People, especially tourists with expensive cameras, have to be extremely careful during the Water Festival Days which lasts four or five days. Some have been known to be the recipients of large plastic bags filled with water which, upon impact, burst — soaked the victim while others smilingly drenched them with buckets of water, sometimes ice water. As if that is not enough, a water hose is sometimes given dead aim and the flood continues to wash over the 'blessed' ones. As one moves on, plastic bag or balloon water-bombs may continue to soak him.

In the rural area SONGKRAN DAY is an occasion for the young men and girls to meet. Since rice farming is in between stages, it is a convenient time for courting.

Baptists, especially in the rural areas, often use these occasions to have special rallies or other meetings.

Maxine Stewart is a Southern Baptist missionary to Thailand, stationed at Chacheungsao.



Some streams in Thailand are not adequate to receiving some of the millions of fish released on Thai New Year (Songkran Day). Some of them become shallow and water traffic comes to a halt in some areas. (Photo by Maxine Stewart)

Book Reviews

COMING OF AGE (Senior Adults & the Churches); Horace L. Kerr; Convention Press, Nashville; 127 pages; paperback.

The author is supervisor of the Senior Adult Section, Family Ministry Department of the Sunday School Board. He is a Mississippian and has served in religious education work in the state. He helped to develop an aging program in Mississippi and worked with the Mississippi Council on Aging.

This book is a detailed account of the development of senior adult work among Southern Baptists and also the growing awareness of the presence of senior adults in the nation.

He lists five objectives of senior adult work among Southern Baptists. They are (1) To create a Baptist leadership and members an awareness of the worth and special needs of senior adults. (2) To promote among Baptist leaders and members a better understanding of senior adults. (3) To assist conventions, associations, and churches to meet the needs of senior adults, particularly in the areas of spiritual growth, social interaction, meaningful service

opportunities, continuing learning, and special services. (4) to provide means through which senior adults may have fellowship with other senior adults throughout the nation. (5) To cooperate with all departments of the Sunday School Board and other Baptist agencies in providing comprehensive systems of programming for senior adults.

The six chapters are Aging Has Come of Age; Coming of Age: A Historical Perspective; Coming of Age: Southern Baptist Churches; Senior Adults and the Churches Today; Senior Adults and the Churches: Building a Relationship; Senior Adults and the Churches: Growing Together; and Coming of Age — The Future Challenge.

In Chapter Four, Senior Adults and the Churches Today, he lists activities that several churches sponsor for senior adults.

In his introduction the author notes that we are living longer; and, as we add years to our lives, we must add life to our years. He adds that longer lives mean that churches and communities have more older persons involved, and we must learn to use their potential more effectively. — DTM

Scholarship for missions volunteers is established at N.O. Seminary

A scholarship for mission volunteers has been established at New Orleans Seminary in memory of J. C. Runnels, late missions-minded layman of Pascagoula, announced Clifford W. Amos, seminary vice president for development and public relations.

Joseph C. "Jake" Runnels died suddenly of a heart attack on Oct. 2, 1986, at age 73. He had just returned from a medical dental mission trip to the San Ignacio Baptist Church in Belize, Central America.

A resident of Pascagoula for over 40 years, Mr. Runnels was born in Forrest County, Miss., on Sept. 6, 1913. He was graduated from Petal High School. He married Inez Hamm on Dec. 23, 1932, and they became parents of a daughter, Bette Jo.

In Pascagoula he owned and operated the Home Furniture and Appliance Company.

A deacon, Sunday School teacher, and treasurer of First and Parkway Baptist churches in Pascagoula, he

was an original director of the Home of Grace and The Haven. From the sixth grade Sunday School class he taught came a number of ministers, missionaries, and a U.S. Congressman. With Leon Hollaway, he was co-founder and director of the Gulf Coast Nursing Home.

He made mission trips to Honduras, Nigeria, and Belize. With the Gideons, he traveled from New York to California, from Arizona to Alabama.

His daughter, Mrs. David Dean of San Antonio, Texas, worked with the Mississippi Sunday School department when she lived in Mobile and while her husband was a professor at medical school. A graduate of New Orleans Seminary, she is an educational consultant in youth education for the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.

Mr. Runnels' survivors include his wife and daughter, three grandchildren, and two sisters. Funeral services were held Oct. 5, 1986, at First Church, Pascagoula.

BYWs to hear Weatherford at banquet

Baptist Young Women from over the state will hear Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC, speak at the annual BYW banquet on March 16, at First Church, Gulfport. This event is held each year in conjunction with the WMU annual meeting.

The program will also feature Judy Edwards, home missionary from New Mexico, as well as music by Dot Pray of Jackson, and the Ladies' Ensemble from First Church, Moss Point.

The BYW banquet begins at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. Reservations can be made by sending names and \$3 per person to the state WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, before the March 13 deadline.

Aubrey G. Smith, former pastor, dies

Aubrey G. Smith of Route 4, Quitman, died on Dec. 31, 1986 at F. G. Riley Memorial Hospital in Meridian.

Smith was ordained to the gospel ministry by W. Salem Church in Greene County the third Sunday of June, 1932. He preached for 53 years. His first 10 years of ministry were in Wayne and Greene Counties in mission work, reorganizing churches, teaching study courses, indoctrinating small churches in Bible doctrines, starting BYPU's, missionary organizations and strengthening Sunday schools. From there he branched out to full time work over the state of Mississippi and south and central Alabama. He was associational missionary in Choctaw, Winston and Newton Counties. His last four years of pastoring, he was a patient of Hemo-Dialysis. During the years of his ministry he led in the building of seven church plants.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Alice Smith; two sons, Arval G. Smith and Kelsa R. Smith; one daughter, Glynnia Ivy, all of Quitman; five brothers; five sisters; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Saying goodbye in Austria not easy

SALZBURG, Austria — Alice Barbour sees pluses and minuses in her student work through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's two-year journeyman program. Through the English-language International Baptist Church, Barbour, of Atlanta, Ga., she offers Bible studies, one-on-one discipleship, retreats and hikes to students from the United States who come to Salzburg for several months of study.

"Many travel on weekends and aren't interested in committing their time to a church," Barbour writes. "But every semester there is a handful who become a valuable part of the fellowship. Having to say goodbye is a frequent happening which... never gets easier."

Just for the Record

Central Church, Golden, (Tishomingo) surpassed its goal of \$3,700. The total given was \$5,006.67. Ralph Culp is pastor.

Missionary News

David and Mary Lynn Southerland, missionaries to Belgium, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 25 rue Thomas Edison, 4330 Grace Hollogne, Belgium). A native of Florida, he was born in Orlando and considers Graceville his hometown. The former Mary Lynn Perkins of Mississippi, she was born in DeKalb and considers Macon her hometown.

Gregory and Karen Massey, missionaries to Argentina, have arrived in Costa Rica for language study (address: Apartado 100, 2350 San Francisco de Dos Rios, San Jose, Costa Rica). They are natives of Meridian, Miss.; she is the former Karen Lawson.

Hal and Lou Ann Lee, missionaries to France, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 2 bis, rue des Anglais, 91300 Massy, France). He was born in Ruston, La., and lived in several Mississippi towns while growing up. The former Lou Ann Green, she was born in Independence, La., and also lived in several Mississippi towns.

Bob and Dianne McNamee, missionaries to Ecuador, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Casilla 4725, Quito, Ecuador). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Jackson, and she, the former Dianne Kea, was born in Kosciusko and considers Raymond her hometown.

Bob and Angie Golmon, missionaries to Taiwan, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: P.O. Box 427, Taipei 10099, Taiwan ROC). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Franklin County and lived in Moss Point during much of his early life. She is the former Angelyn Deaton of Jackson, Tenn.

Larry and Mary Hendricks, missionaries to Costa Rica, have completed language study and may be addressed at Apartado 1883, San Jose, Costa Rica. He was born in Edmond, Okla., and considers Yazoo City, Miss., his hometown. The former Mary White of Arkansas, she was born in Fort Smith.

Marvin and Jean Fitts, recently reappointed Baptist representatives to Mexico, have arrived on the field (address: Apartado 20, Boulevares, Edo de Mexico, 53140 Mexico). He is a native of Pontotoc, Miss., and she is the former Jean Carlisle of Lucy, Tenn. They were Southern Baptist missionaries for 22 years in Peru before they resigned in 1981. They were reappointed to Mexico in 1986.

Robert and Marsha Ford, missionaries to Scotland, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: "Applegarth," Harbour Rd., Wigtown, DGB 9EL, Scotland). He is a native of St. Augustine, Fla. The former Marsha Waldrep, she was born in New Orleans, La., and considers Holly Springs, Miss., her hometown.



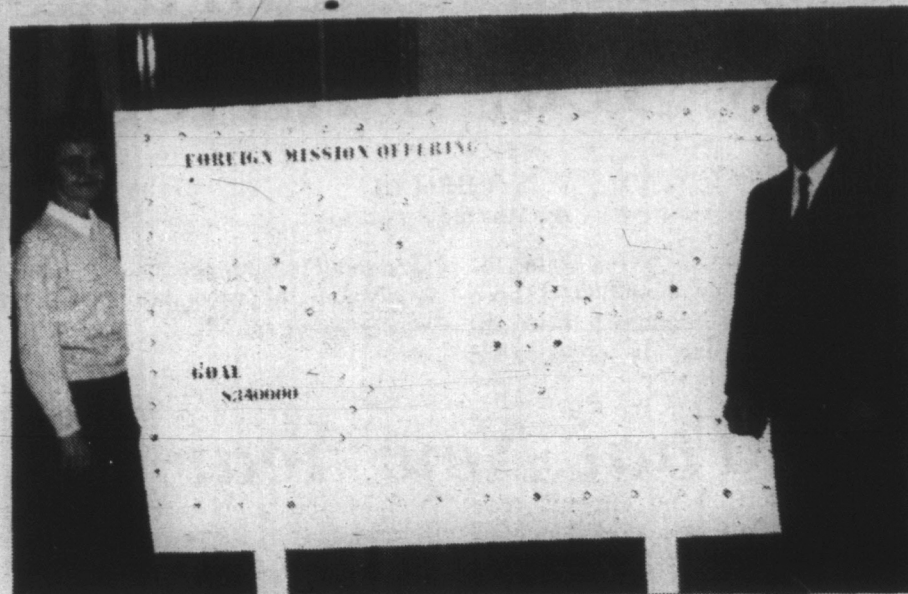
Southside Church, Lucedale, honored its Acteens with a recognition service, Oct. 19. The theme was "Let Your Light Shine." Pictured, left to right, are Amanda Miller, Tonya Gandy, Belinda Estle, Sherrie Clark, and Mandy Hale. The leaders are Pat Busby and Stacy Gray.



First Church, Boyle, recently held a recognition service for Acteens and GAs. Queens were (top row, left to right) Mechelle Pinkston, queen; Kenna McClafflin, queen with scepter; Rhonda Hopper, queen with scepter. GAs completing Missions Adventures were (2nd row, left to right) Tanya Gant, April Williams, Melanie LaBella, Dawn Brown, Jan Mullins, Mandy Ervin, and (bottom row, left) Angela Chambless. Attendants were (bottom row begin 2nd from left) Lori Barnett, crown bearer; Memorie McCreary, scepter bearer; and Amy Chennault, scepter bearer.



Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University strives to ease the tension during exam week. Each year parents of Baptist preference students receive a letter concerning Exam Care Packages and with a return small donation packages of fruit and goodies are delivered to their student by BSU'ers. Pictured are Frank Porter of Ellisville and Scott Crawford of Pearl assembling Exam Care Packages. The proceeds of this project go to BSU Student Missions. This year approximately 950 packages were delivered by the MSU-BSU netting \$3,000 toward their goal of \$11,000.



Moak's Creek Church, Lincoln County, not only reached its goal for foreign missions, \$3,400 but exceeded it with \$4,096. Pictured with the lighted display representing the goal are Mignonne Johnston, mission support chairman, and Billy J. Howse, pastor.



Calvary Church, Columbus held a note burning service and open house at its new pastorium, Dec. 14. During the services a plaque was unveiled naming the residence, the Nolen-Uithoven Pastorium. A year and a half ago, Coy Nolen, gave his equity in the five bedroom home to the church. Recently the church was named in the will of Mr. and Mrs. Guice Uithoven, church members, now deceased. Their bequest amounted to more than enough to pay off the note on the remaining indebtedness. Pictured, along with members of the congregation, left to right, are Wayne Goodman, chairman of deacons, Gilbert Lowe, treasurer, and Roy D. Hawkins, pastor.



Main Street Church, Goodman recently held a note-burning ceremony. The final payment on the note, which enabled the church to completely renovate the pastor's home, (pictured), was made Dec. 16, 1986. Also, pictured, from left, are I. B. Leathers, Danny Williams, Luther Boggan, Marion Ousley, and Ray Allen, pastor. Not pictured are trustees, Thomas L. Davis and M. R. Thorne.



Pressler, Patterson issue statement: 'current developments encouraging'

By Dan Martin

DALLAS (BP) — "Current developments in the Southern Baptist Convention" are encouraging to Paul Pressler and Paige Patterson, the two fundamentalist leaders say in a statement prepared for the SBC Peace Committee.

In a 3-page, 11 point statement, Pressler, a Houston appeals court judge, and Patterson, president of the Criswell Center for Biblical Studies here, said they would "like to express our appreciation for current developments in the Southern Baptist Convention and to make certain recommendations for peace and harmony within the convention..."

The "Statement of Appreciation and Affirmation" was made in response to a request by the SBC Peace Committee's political activities subcommittee and subsequently sent to Baptist Press, the state Baptist newspapers, and secular religion writers across the nation.

Pressler said the statement is "the first formal statement we have ever made, and we issued it in order to set forth where the two of us believe the convention is at the present time."

Patterson added: "I guess we grew a little weary of somebody else saying what we thought and said. I am not sure anybody is all that concerned about what Paul and I are thinking, but since we were getting cited here, there and yonder, I thought we ought to say it outright."

In their statement, Pressler and Patterson noted their support for the "Glorieta Statement" of the six SBC seminary presidents. The statement, issued in October, commits the seminaries to seven specific actions, including enforcement of the doctrinal statements and fair treatment of all views of Scripture.

It also says the presidents believe the Bible "is not errant in any area of reality."

The Pressler-Patterson statement also expresses "strong support" for the SBC unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program; pledges they will "work towards a harmonious convention in St. Louis;" calls upon "those in our institutions and agencies to treat all Southern Baptists with love and concern," and calls on the Baptist news media "to be fair."

It also calls on "all Southern Baptists to work together constructively to correct the problems" in the convention; disavows "harsh rhetoric, unfounded accusations of disloyalty to our... heritage and misrepresentation of the positions of other Baptists," and calls on all Southern Baptists "to

discuss the issues openly and honestly without rancor or bitterness and without propagandizing through the press."

It says again the basic position frequently expressed by Pressler and Patterson: "For conservatives the issue in the convention has always been whether or not the Bible contains error or is truly the perfect revelation of God, 'truth without any mixture of error,' and 'not errant in any area of reality.'"

"We call on all Southern Baptists involved in the controversy to address the issue and all of our seminary professors and other denominational employees to address forthrightly and honestly this issue in such a way that there are no ambiguous phrases or hidden meanings."

It adds: "Our problems are real. They were not faced adequately in the Elliott Controversy in the early 1960s or in the Broadman Bible commentary controversy of the early 1970s."

"We are grateful that increasing numbers of Southern Baptists are now recognizing that these problems can no longer be disregarded and that we must have our institutions operate from the predicate that the Bible is 'truth without any mixture of error' and 'not errant in any area of reality.' We call upon all Southern Baptists to work together constructively to correct the problems created by those who deny this basic belief."

"Failure to acknowledge or deal with these problems will only insure that the controversy will not abate. As these problems are acknowledged and dealt with and as the Glorieta Statement is implemented, the controversy will abate."

It adds: "We praise God for what is happening in the Southern Baptist Convention. The purpose of our involvement has been to strengthen our theological moorings in such a way that we will be better equipped to reach individuals for a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ."

"To this end we dedicate ourselves, and we urge full cooperation by all Southern Baptists to this end."

"As problems are resolved, unity will return and we will see the accomplishment of the purposes for which we were created, namely missions and evangelism based upon thorough biblical training and the equipping of the saints for the ministry to which they are called."

In their statement, Pressler and Patterson note they "greet with enthusiasm the statement of the

seminary presidents in Glorieta and appreciate their recognition that there is 'legitimate concern' about the seminaries and that the teaching of inerrancy has not been given 'a fair shake' in the schools."

"We support them in their pledge to work to rectify these problems and stand ready to be of assistance in implementing this declaration. We regret that for many years these facts were denied, but we are grateful that they have now been acknowledged."

In the section affirming support for the Cooperative Program, Pressler and Patterson note they are "distressed that some of those in Southern Baptist life who have raised the loudest hue and cry against a societal approach have now seemingly embraced it by actions such as the Virginia Convention designating funds for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs."

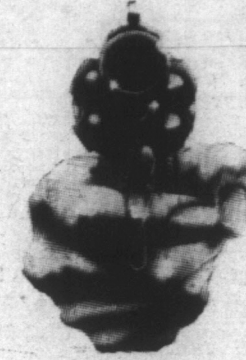
The statement refers to action taken at the annual meeting of the Baptist General Association of Virginia which specified Cooperative Program funds up to \$75,000 would be sent directly to the BJCPA, in the event that organization is defunded by the SBC in 1987.

The statement also says efforts to oppose incumbent officers for reelection have "been harmful and polarizing. Never has opposition to incumbent officers who are eligible for reelection... come from conservatives. We pledge ourselves to continue to work toward peaceful conventions and urge all others to unite behind those who are eligible for reelection and to support the reports and recommendations of the committees which have been duly constituted and accepted by our convention," it says.

He also notes the writers "are grateful that we have a system... wherein our people can correct the course of our cooperative endeavors when the direction of our efforts need correction." It also notes gratefulness at being a denomination "which recognizes the priesthood of all believers and allows oversight of all denominational institutions by the people..."

In reference to terminology Pressler and Patterson say they "reject the harmful and misleading phraseology of 'fundamentalist-conservative' and 'moderate conservative,'" and urges they "should be replaced by the more accurate and less volatile 'conservative' and 'moderate.'"

Dan Martin is BP news editor.



Intensive care

*Drugs are just as deadly
as a loaded gun.
Don't take chances
with your life*

An excerpt from a letter received:

"I've been taking nerve tablets and antidepressants, and now sleeping pills. As of this writing I am still very anxious and depressed. I seem to be getting worse by the day, and I don't know where to turn for help... I am in very bad financial condition and my insurance will not cover any mental disorders..."

Reply:

You may suppose that your insurance would not help you. This possibility should not prevent you from exploring the options for recovery. You cannot lose by inquiring, but you may gain information that will really help you.

As you describe your present condition, your drug usage has gone on for many years, accompanied by an anxious state of mind, and a worsening situation generally. It may seem hard to realize at this time, but there are people who do understand how you feel and from whom you may gain much needed support.

Most important of all is the truth that God himself cares, and his strength is present in your every hour of distress. God also works through people, especially those to whom you

turn, or who through God's guidance will find you. Hope itself is God's gift, one that you nor I can do without for very long.

Let me urge you to make several contacts with people who can tell you specifically what you may do and also what direct help they can offer. In all probability, there is drug rehabilitation program in your area. The inpatient programs use comprehensive approaches that take into consideration all significant areas of life — physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. The outpatient programs, which you may choose, are effective and convenient.

I suggest that you call the toll free number at the Chemical Dependency Center, 1-800-962-6868. The Mental Health Center or the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in your area may give assistance.

Questions addressed to Intensive Care are forwarded to Chaplain Joe Stovall at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center and are handled in consultation with the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Chemical Dependency Center. Inquiries should be addressed to Intensive Care, Baptist Record, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

The test of a man's religion is his week-day behavior.

The only real way to prepare to meet thy God is to live with Him daily so that to meet Him will be nothing strange.

To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society. — Theodore Roosevelt

Nothing lies beyond the reach of prayer except that which lies outside the will of God.



Custom features, such as television sets or sound systems, can be included easily in your EMC vehicles. Tinted side windows, providing excellent visibility while reducing glare and heat transmission, are standard equipment.

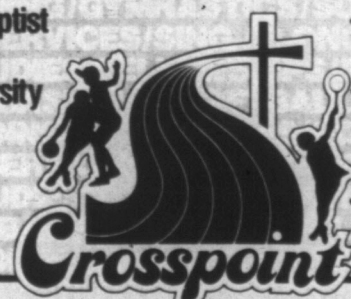
PEOPLE MOVERS 10 to 35 PASSENGER-BUILT TO FIT YOUR NEEDS
SOUTHEASTERN BUS SALES CO.
203 Hester Street Clinton, MS 39056
Tel. (601) 924-1983
Call collect for additional information.



A CHRISTIAN SPORTS CAMP (Grades 4-8)

• Oklahoma Baptist University
• Baylor University
• Louisiana College
• Mississippi College

• Ouachita Baptist University
• Mercer University
• Wake Forest University
• Carson-Newman College



For promotional video and brochures, call or write:
Church Recreation Department
Baptist Sunday School Board
Nashville, TN 37234
(615) 251-2711

Mrs. R. A. Langley, pastor's widow, dies at 92

Funeral services for Mrs. Nora M. Langley, 92, were held at 11 a.m., Jan. 19, from Fellowship Baptist Church, Mendenhall. Troy Land officiated and Glen Floyd sang, accompanied by Mrs. Linda Beard.

Mrs. Langley died Jan. 18 at the Simpson County Hospital in Mendenhall, following an extended illness. A housewife, and widow of the

late Robin Adair Langley, a pastor, she had lived in the Mendenhall Nursing Home for 10 years, and Clinton Manor for a number of years. She was a lifelong resident of Hinds and Simpson Counties.

She was born in Greensboro, Ala., on March 13, 1894. She was a great influence in the birth of the Sunbeams in Mississippi.

Her late husband, R. A. Langley, served these churches in Mississippi: Salem, Learned; Bethesda, Terry; Darlove; and Union Church, Union. He helped establish Fellowship Church, Mendenhall, and also did some teaching.

Survivors include one sister, Mrs. Hattie Hunt, Mendenhall Nursing Home.

Names in the News

Vance Dyess, former pastor, will bring the morning message, Feb. 15, at Calvary Church, Braxton. This is in preparation for the spring revival, March 8-11. Henry Bennett is pastor.

Johnny Beaver was ordained to the ministry by Steele Church, Forest, Jan. 4. The charge was given to Beaver by Tony Henry, former pastor. The charge to the church was given by Tom Fox, pastor.



Beaver, 17, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Beaver. A senior at Scott Central High School, he plans to attend Clarke College after graduation.

He is serving as interim pastor of Liberty Church, Scott Association.

Betty Barber of Clinton has received the 1986 MACUS award, the highest award bestowed by the 900 members

of the Mississippi Association on Children Under Six. Mrs. Barber has been a member of MACUS for 14 years and has served as president. For the past six years she has been the affiliate representative on the Southeast Association on Children Under Six.

For the past 13 years she has been at Mississippi College as an instructor and director of the laboratory school in the Department of Home Economics. She is an approved worker and consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Miss Nora McLain celebrated her



McLain

94th birthday, Feb. 1, at Puckett Church, Puckett. She was honored with a fellowship meal and birthday party after the morning services. Alvin C. Doyle is pastor.

Pearl River people treat patients, build chapel in Tela, Honduras

A medical-dental-optical-evangelical group and a construction group sponsored by the Pearl River Baptist Brotherhood has returned to the States after spending Jan. 18-25 in Honduras in the area of Tela and El Progreso, treating patients and building a small chapel.

Clinics were held in the city of Tela and in two villages in the upper mountainous area outside Tela.

Honduras, just north of war-torn Nicaragua, has a population of 2.5 million. It is the second poorest nation economically in this hemisphere.

The construction group built a small Baptist chapel called Mount Calvary Church measuring 35 feet by 45 feet on East Main Street in El Progreso. The church is in a populous area which has five housing developments. Plans for a Vacation Bible School were made for the week following completion.

Pearl River Countians helping in the construction were: Coordinator Richard Murphy, Johnny Trahan, Rick Carter, J. C. Barnes, Sammy Warriner, and Bea Bond. Others were Elvies Myers of Talisheek, La., Dean Hall and M. L. Rowlen of Eupora, Wilbur Smith of Pelahatchie, and Charles Woodward of New Orleans. Carl Myers of Poplarville, who is head of the county's Baptist Brotherhood, coordinated all the ministering groups with the help of Ken Rhodes, associational missions director.

W. F. Stringer, Poplarville, coordinated the general medicine group;

David Sneed of Eupora, the dental; Ron Mazingo of Poplarville, the optical; and Patrick Brunson of New Orleans, the pharmacy. Joe Lovelady of New Orleans and Bill Stewart of Eupora were the evangelists, and were assisted by local pastors. Robin Moody, singer, served with the evangelism team. Serving with the general medicine team were: Michael Albert of Jackson, Cindy Brunson of New Orleans, Tony Finn of Jackson, Martha Hadley of Bay Springs, Bobbie Hendrix of Bogalusa, La., Linda Mitchell and Ann Stringer of Poplarville, Robin Stringfellow of Louisville, and Debbie White of Eupora. Frances Crawford, missionary nurse in Honduras, saw patients as a nurse practitioner. Serving in the dental group were: Anthony Presley of Florence, Dan Crawford of Knoxville, Tenn., Kathleen Estes of Tazewell, Tenn., Ann Sneed and Beth Snyder of Eupora, and Mary Witthauer of Picayune. Frank Reese of Boyle worked in optometry, and Mrs. Betty Cavataio directed cooking.

Serving as interpreters were several from the New Orleans area: Seila Weld, Israel Santiago, Saul Pelay, and David Lema. Statistically, there were 367 faith decisions, 2,022 general medicine patients, 350 dental patients with 863 extractions, 431 optometry patients, and over 6,000 prescriptions.

The trip was financed by churches in the Pearl River Association, First

Churches of Eupora and Bay Springs, Edgewater East Church in New Orleans, the CLOC Club of Poplarville High School; Mrs. Virginia Love, and Miss Anne Dandridge, Pearl River Drug Store, all of Poplarville, the team members and others. The family of the late J. B. Davis of Pascagoula, formerly of Poplarville, donated equipment and supplies. A Lincoln County Baptist donated a large sum toward construction of the chapel.

Stanley and Glenda Stamps, missionaries serving in Honduras, made arrangements for the trip and assisted in its operation. Naptali Hernandez, a Honduran school teacher, has been trained by Stamps to direct medical groups and gave direction in the group's operation.

Revival Dates

Sunshine, Pearl: located on Hwy. 80 East; Outreach Crusade; Feb. 15-19; 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. nightly. Gary Bowlin, evangelist, preaching; Jerry Swimmer, music evangelist.

Carpets, furniture, pew cushions and drapery cleaned on premises by insured professionals.

Fabricate also available.

EDWARDS CARPET, DRAPERY AND FURNITURE CLEANING

Jackson, MS 601-982-4867; 4801 N. State St.

Pews, pulpits, baptistries, stained glass, carpet, steeples, chairs, tables, lighting, folding doors

Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery

Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627
Design—Construction Management

We Remodel & Paint

OLD BIBLES REBOUND

A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.

"Internationally known specialists"
NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.
Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

FOR CHARTER OR RENT

25 - or 47 - Passenger buses
BUS SUPPLY CO. INC.
McComb, MS 601-684-2900

WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF FIBERGLASS CHURCH PRODUCTS

- STEEPLES • WALL CROSSES
- STAINED FIBERGLASS WINDOWS
- BAPTISTRIES
- BAPTISTRY HEATERS

1-800-527-1400
Write for free color brochure

FiberGlass Specialties
In Texas (214) 657-0522 Box 210 Henderson, Texas 75652

1st, Yazoo City, constructing new education building

Construction got underway on January 30, at the site designated for new building at First Church, Yazoo City. The two-story facility will house offices and education space.

On Aug. 24, 1986, the church members launched a five-week building fund campaign to secure \$300,000.00 in pledges to be paid over a three-year period. At the conclusion of the campaign, nearly \$435,000.00 in money and pledges had come in.

The new facility will be situated on a piece of property purchased from the late DuAine B. Morgan and Mrs. Primrose Morgan in 1969.

Members of the Building Committee are Ron Wilkinson, chairman; Walker Williamson, Sissy Grisham, J. P. Sar-

tain, and Kathryn Barfield. The late Owen Cooper was serving as a committee member at the time of his death.

The building will contain offices on the first level for all the staff including the pastor, James F. Yates; the minister of education and administration, Cortez Hutchinson; and the associate minister of pastoral care, Ralph Calcote. The second level will provide additional Sunday School rooms and other education space.

A second phase of the program will include renovation of the first and second floors of the present education building to provide space for the music ministry.

Senior Adult Corner

Pleasant Ridge women quilt for world missions projects

The retired women of Pleasant Ridge Church (Chickasaw) contributed \$417 to Annie Armstrong, \$300 to the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, and \$602 to Lottie Moon. These were the proceeds from weekly quiltings during 1986.

Through talking, laughing, and visiting as they quilt, the women have become close friends. On Thursdays at 8 a.m., ten of them gather in the church fellowship hall. They bring their lunch. One always brings her coffee pot, and there is usually cake, pie, or candy to share. Anyone who has to be absent will always call to check on the progress for that day.

It didn't take long for word to get out that this group would sell their quilts

"cheap." Last year they quilted 57 quilts.

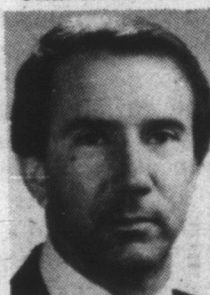
"These ladies suggest that other retired ladies give quilting a try. It's fun and the proceeds from sale of the quilts will help people around the world to live happy, useful lives," said Louise Dobbs of Pleasant Ridge Church.

76-year-old earns degree

Eugene E. Bradley, pastor of Phalti Church, Clarke Association, recently received the Biblical theology degree by correspondence from the International Bible Institute and Seminary of Plymouth, Fla.

Bradley, 76 years old, is a native of Charleston, and lives in Wayne County.

Larry Kulcke has recently begun his ministry at Colonial Heights Church as minister of music. Kulcke previously served Summer Grove Church, Shreveport, La., and Northwest Memorial Church, Houston, Tex.



Kulcke

Kulcke is a graduate of Northeast Louisiana University and attended Southwestern Seminary. He and his wife, Tavia, have two daughters and two grandchildren.

J. Gerald Harris, pastor.

Clyde M. Thompson, retired minister, dies

Funeral services were held on January 26, 1987, for Clyde M. Thompson, 74, at First Church, Gulfport. With Jerry Estes and Roger Alewine officiating, Gene Warr was the soloist.

Thompson is survived by his wife of 55 years, Gladys McIntosh Thompson; a son, H. Ray Thompson of Chattanooga, Tenn.; a daughter, Mrs. John (Gaynell) Duke of Biloxi; two brothers; one sister; three grand-

children and three great-grandchildren.

Thompson had served as pastor of several churches in the Gulf Coast Association, and also had done evangelistic work in a number of the Southern states.

Since retirement, he had been a member of First Church, Gulfport, and lived on Landon Road in Gulfport, where his wife still resides.

U.S. prison space still at premium

States are scrambling to build new prisons, but they can't keep pace with mushrooming inmate populations, a news report says.

Capacity in the nation's 694 prisons grew 29 percent from 1979 to 1984, while the number of inmates jumped 45 per-

cent, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

Average space per inmate is 57 square feet (down 11 percent). Average bathroom in a U.S. household is 76 square feet.

—USA Today

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

Litmus test of Christian relationships: can you forgive?

By Charles Wesley

John 15:18-21; 26-27; 16:7-15

Don't let anyone fool you. The Christian lifestyle is not a life of ease. There will be plenty of circumstances that will test the Christian's faith. The Christian can expect opposition and hatred from the world. This is because the lifestyle of the Christian is in opposition to the lifestyle of the person living according to the world's standards. The word "world" in this passage of Scripture speaks of that system which is in rebellion to God. If the world system opposed and persecuted the Lord Jesus Christ, then the followers of Christ can expect the same treatment from the world. Simply put, the reason for the world persecuting the Christian is that the world does not know and recognize Jesus Christ as being the Savior.



Wesley

BIBLE BOOK

However, the Christian is not left alone to battle the world. The Holy Spirit will be present with the believer to help him live the Christian lifestyle. In this lesson Jesus points out three of the works of the Holy Spirit.

First, the Holy Spirit comes to bear witness of Jesus Christ (John 15:26-27). We need to be aware that there are several names used for the Holy Spirit. In John 14:26, the Holy Spirit is called the "Comforter" ("Helper") and the "Spirit of truth." Jesus said of himself that he is the truth (John 14:6). Thus, we are able to see the unity of the Holy Spirit with Jesus Christ. Furthermore, Jesus explains that the Spirit of truth comes from the Father. Likewise, we can see the unity of the Holy Spirit with God. Even though the word "trinity" is not used in the New Testament, there are many verses where the oneness of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is observed.

One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to bear witness of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has always been in the world, since he is God. However, the Holy Spirit is now coming with a new emphasis to equip the Christian to proclaim the gospel. Acts 1:8 declares, "but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses . . ."

Second, the Holy Spirit comes to convict the world (John 16:7-11). The Holy Spirit has a ministry not only to the believer, but also to the unbelieving world. "And he, when he comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment" (John 16:8, NASB). The Holy Spirit will expose the sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ. In addition, the Holy Spirit will expose and convict man's futile attempts to achieve righteousness apart from belief in Jesus Christ. Also, the Holy Spirit renders a complete judgment on the ruler of this world and those who serve him.

Third, the Holy Spirit comes to guide the

believer (John 16:12-15). There were many other things Jesus desired to teach his disciples, but they were not yet able to understand those truths. Therefore, Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit will function as a guide or instructor to them. They were to receive the instruction given to them by the Holy Spirit as instruction coming from God. The Holy Spirit guides the believer in understanding the redemptive work of God through history.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ. Therefore, the Holy Spirit will not bear witness of himself. We should be careful not to develop a belief that exalts the Holy Spirit above Jesus Christ. Rather, we are to allow the Holy Spirit to control our lives, so we will bring glory to Jesus Christ. Furthermore, as the Holy Spirit empowers us, we will be able to confront a hostile world with the good news that God has provided for man's salvation through Jesus Christ.

Charles Wesley is pastor, Morrison Chapel Church, Cleveland.

Jesus points out three of the works of the Holy Spirit

By Robert M. Hanvey

Colossians 3:5-21

I suppose it is in the home that the relationships are tested, are well-defined, and have an opportunity to either grow or to dissipate. It seems to me that the home is the real testing ground of our faith and the expression of our faith with others. I am not so naive as to think that the world is not a testing ground for us in terms of relationships, but I do believe that the home is the place where we are tested perhaps more than any other place.



Hanvey

In the context of our focal passage for this week, I believe we come to a realization of what the home is all about. If we have received Jesus Christ into our lives as Lord and Savior of life, then relationships must be Christian. We must give expression of our love for Jesus first to him, and then to others. As we look at the Col-

ossians material, we would understand that we are to deal with self first before we can deal properly with other people. We must have in us the putting to death of sin, difficulty, and wrong attitudes. We are then able to deal with ourselves and with others in the Christian context.

The new life in Christ calls for a transformation of one's life and one's relationships. We would desire to refrain from actions that are against the teachings of God, that are against Christian action and that are against Christian attitudes. We must refrain from dealing with people outside the Christian context. We are, as Christian people, in our homes and in our relationships with others to practice compassion, the real caring ministry for other people. We are to practice kindness, being sweet, gentle, and considerate of others. We are to practice humility; the loss of pride, the killing of pride in ourselves and humbling ourselves to be a

minister in the relationship. We are to practice patience. Long-suffering and patience are necessary in the relationship with others. Forgiveness — perhaps this is the most difficult area either in relationships outside the home, in the world, or in the home. To practice forgiveness means that I must forgive myself as well as forgiving others. It means that when I forgive others, God forgives me. Perhaps the litmus test of our relationship with Jesus is whether we are willing to forgive others.

As adults we can find help for relating positively to people as we work through this lesson. We understand that we begin with self in order to be able to deal with others on a proper Christian plane. If one's personal life is not what it ought to be, then one's relationship with others will not be what it ought to be. People who find themselves in the home together, loving, sharing as married couples and families, desire to express the right relationship one to the other. For instance, wives submit, or yield to or find themselves in agreement with the husband, and likewise the husband with the

wife. The husband is to love the wife as Jesus loves the church. In the home environment, in the family, children are to be obedient to the parents. They are to yield to and respect the parents. Of course, all of these relationships in the home are predicated upon love. That love is through Jesus Christ, the Lord and the Master of life. That kind of love relationship must permeate not only the home and its relationships, but the relationships outside the home, in the world and, consequently, in God's family, too.

We are concerned today that we give the proper Christian expression to relationships with others. They are not to be confusing and negative. They are to be positive. As we are able to control self, so will we be able to work with and respond positively to people whom we love. May God help us to render proper regard for and work in our relationships in the home, in the church, in the workplace, in the community and in the world.

Robert Hanvey is pastor, First, Hazlehurst.

The cross of Jesus — clearly the way of self-denial

By Nathan L. Barber

Luke 9:23-26, 57-62

A fast food restaurant says, "Have it your way." A feminist organization says that women have the right to choose concerning their body, even to the point of aborting the pre-born baby. A credit card company urges people not to put it off until tomorrow what they can have today. Humanists mock the Judeo-Christian ethic and moral standards which teach sexual abstinence before marriage. Radio and television have developed an industry around that likeable, yet competitive, character called "the Consumer." Numerous other industries spring up to help people with their leisure time. Then thundering across the centuries, Jesus rains on our self-centeredness. He said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."



Barber

To deny yourself means that you have to forget yourself. It means that you have to live as though you do not exist. Even clearer,

LIFE AND WORK

however, it means that you have to live as if you were dead . . . dead to self! Only then can Christ live his life in and through you. But that which Jesus demands of his followers, denial, is simply foreign to people in our day. It was also foreign to people in Jesus' day but only in a different way. No one desires to deny self. The natural tendency is to declare our own importance. We soon come to understand that following Jesus can be a costly venture.

The cross of Jesus was clearly the way of self-denial. Jesus "emptied himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Philippians 2:7, 8). When Jesus said that his followers must take up their cross daily, he was calling them to a life of self-denial, humility, and obedience. The disciple was to daily surrender his will to the Will of God.

In this Roman occupied country where crucifixion was not uncommon, the image of

taking up one's own cross was clearly understood. Criminals were forced to carry their own cross to the place of execution. On the way to death, there was humiliation and suffering. Jesus indicates that his disciples must disavow self to the point of willingly taking up their cross every day.

Paul would later refer to this pattern of life as "a living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1). Such sacrificial living involves the discovery that one's true and best self depends upon a willingness to give one's life to Jesus. In this kind of offering, life is not consumed as one might expect; it is secured. On the other hand, a man can lose his life trying to preserve it.

In verses 57-62 Jesus instructs three would-be disciples concerning the cost of discipleship. Matthew tells us that the first would-be disciple was a scribe (Matt. 8:19). He said that he would follow Jesus wherever he went. This volunteer did not realize that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem and the cross. Jesus wanted the man to know that the consequence for the disciple could be no less than the one he followed.

The second-would-be disciple was not a volunteer. He was called by Jesus. His response

indicated that he first wanted to discharge some family responsibilities. But Jesus told him that the demands of the Kingdom are more urgent than that. People without any spiritual insight can perform the kind of duties to which the second would-be disciple has referred. Let the dead take care of those things. However, let those (few in comparison) who are sensitive to the Lordship of Jesus "go and proclaim everywhere the Kingdom of God" (v. 60). Jesus was not teaching that we are to ignore family responsibilities. He was teaching that even family responsibilities do not take priority over the Kingdom of God.

The third would-be disciple was a volunteer, also. His request to permit him to say good-bye to those at home seems reasonable enough. Jesus, however, knows the volunteer's heart and detects a reluctance to move forward with his commitment. Jesus reminds him that he must keep his eye on the goal if he is to plow the straight furrow and be fit for the Kingdom of God. Those who look back hinder the task. Following Jesus calls for singleness of purpose . . . no turning back.

Barber is pastor, First, Bay St. Louis.

Baptist Record

Spanish church planter yearns for co-workers

By Linda A. Fisher

BILBAO, Spain (BP) — If churches were as easy to plant as trees, Julio Diaz might have produced a forest.

"There is a family in Guernica, a solid Baptist family," the Spanish Baptist Union home missionary says. "If we just had someone to go there and start a church.

"And in Orduna, I have 150 prospect cards," names generated by the union's Bible correspondence course. "I can't begin to reach them myself," Diaz says, "but I am trying to keep the door open for future contacts by sending Christmas cards to each of them every year."

Diaz, however, has been investing his life in the towns of Bilbao and Bermeo, in the Basque region along Spain's northern coast. It's an area where the Basque separatist group ETA has made news with terrorist activities.

Diaz and the mission at Bilbao have witnessed not a terrorist explosion but an evangelistic one. They've baptized a record 10 new believers so far this year. Diaz has been the mission's pastor since 1976, when average atten-

dance there was only 11 people.

The home missionary began work in nearby Bermeo after an interview on a radio station serving the region. An evangelical husband and wife who were moving from the small fishing village telephoned Diaz to ask him to maintain contact with a teen-age girl they had befriended. Diaz's visits led to a home Bible study, and the girl's sister and brother later accepted Christ as their personal savior.

Another contact in Bermeo was with a paraplegic who signed up for the convention's Bible correspondence course after his aunt, a Catholic nun, gave him an enrollment card. Diaz added the boy's family to his weekly visitation rounds, and the lad and his sister responded with decisions for Christ. When the paraplegic died, Diaz conducted the area's first evangelical funeral.

Diaz began Saturday worship services in a small storefront in May 1983.

After the building was destroyed by a flood, the mission moved to the local community center. Attendance now

stands at 30 to 40 adults, and 15 are enrolled in midweek Bible study. A number of them travel to the Baptist mission in Bilbao for Sunday worship, carrying sack lunches so they can stay for the evening service.

Diaz's work extends still further. To many young adults in his congregations, he provides counsel as they or their peers deal with staggering unemployment in the region, political unrest, and drug abuse. Diaz is president of the region's Baptist association, and he makes a two-hour bus trip once a month to preach at a church which hasn't had a pastor for two years.

He also has been responsive to employees of several American firms with operations in Bilbao who want English-language worship services. Twice a month such services are held at the mission. "Many churches in the United States offer their facilities to the Spanish-speaking in their communities," Diaz says. "Here we have the opportunity to return that favor."

Linda Fisher is a Southern Baptist missionary in Spain.

Christian chosen China's Woman of Year

BEIJING, China (BP) — Xiu Rui-Juan, a Christian and a world-known scientist and physician, has been named "Woman of the Year" for the last three years by the government of China.

Xiu, a specialist in microcirculation systems, has received wide notice for her research into diabetes and heart disease. Chinese radio, television, and periodicals present her as an example for everyone in the country.

The honors reflect an amazing turnaround for the 50-year-old Xiu, vice president of the Chinese Academy of Medical Science in Beijing and head of its Microcirculation Research Center. In the hall where she now lectures students, Xiu was once forced to endure ridicule and abuse.

During the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s, radicals in China persecuted religious people, intellectuals, and the well-educated, among many others. Xiu fitted into all three categories.

Foreign ties of any sort also were considered highly suspect at the time. Xiu and her family had been close to the Swedish Baptist missionaries who formerly worked in Zhucheng, where she grew up. Xiu still calls missionary Matilda Persson her "second mother." Persson ran an orphanage and worked as a midwife in Zhucheng from the early years of the century until 1947.

Like many professionals, Xiu was separated from her family and banished to the countryside for several years during the Cultural Revolution. She worked as a farm laborer and later — when her training as a physician was discovered — as a poorly equipped rural "barefoot doctor." Her father suffered severe persecution. Her husband died during the era.

When the Cultural Revolution ended and China began its struggle to modernize, Xiu and other highly trained victims of the purge were "rehabilitated" and asked to join the march toward progress. She rejoined

her family and rose to her current post at the medical academy, which represents 18 research institutes throughout China. She also became a member of the advisory committee of the national People's Congress.

"I never denied my faith or my background, a fact that has caused me many difficult moments and suffering," she said. "Now the difficult times are over, and we thank God for freedom and for our country's openness to the world."

Xiu remains thankful to Matilda Persson, who died in retirement in Sweden after leaving China. "She came to be my ideal," the scientist said.

"Whenever I have been in a difficult situation I have thought of her, prayed, and received strength.

"Now I can freely talk about Matilda and everything she meant to me, and I can also freely witness to my faith which has carried me through the years. I thank God for Matilda."

Baptist agency pioneer views role of education

By Lonnie Wilkey

ATLANTA (BP) — A Southern Baptist educational pioneer insisted the most important role of Baptist colleges is strengthening the commitment of students who are already Christians.

R. Orin Cornett, who became the first executive director of the Southern Baptist Education Commission in 1951, addressed nearly 100 educators during the mid-year

meeting of the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools here.

Cornett noted that young people like to "go along with the group." From his experience what the group did was influenced most by upperclassmen. The students who were most desired were those who wanted to do something worthwhile with their lives in service to God and man, he said.

"The key to the influence of the

Christian college is its majority of Christian students who are responsive to the influence of the special climate it offers and are capable to contributing to that climate as they progress to later college years," he said.

Cornett observed that the college years are crucial for setting a direction for life and reaching a commitment to service: "This is the magic of the Christian college. It is aided and abetted by dedicated faculty and ad-

ministrators who are able to manage things in the face of many problems.

"The miracle is that the uncertain, indecisive, easily influenced freshman becomes in turn the committed upperclassman who helps provide the momentum and sense of direction needed by incoming students."

Lonnie Wilkey writes for the SBC Education Commission.

These Small Amounts Help in Missions

\$1 will provide a nutritious meal for a child in an inner-city center.



\$30 will provide three days food assistance for a needy family.



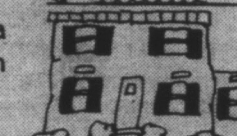
\$100 will pay the utility bill for a month at a Baptist center.



\$100 will send two underprivileged children to summer camp.



\$300 will rent a building for a congregation to meet in on Sundays for a month.



\$50 will buy a crib for the nursery of a mission church.



\$56 will provide a tape of hymns to accompany a language congregation unable to find a pianist.



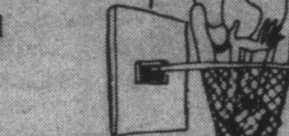
\$10 will provide a chair for a new mission church.



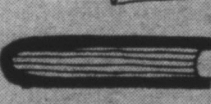
\$125 will help provide a revival preacher for a struggling church.



\$15 will provide a basketball for recreation in an inner-city center.



\$120 will buy hymnals for a struggling mission church.



\$100 will help provide the basic staples for refugees waiting to be resettled.



Baptists double in Martinique

LAMENTIN, Martinique — Baptists on this island in the French West Indies almost doubled their ranks on a single day last December. They baptized 22 new believers, bringing their total number to 48. Two Southern Baptist missionary couples are working with Martinique Baptists.

Baptist Record

005-DTM
SO BAPT HIS SOCIETY
SUITE 400
901 COMMERCE ST
NASHVILLE
CARRIER ROUTE 39
2-12 00
TN 37203

Fe

987

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205